

Parents' grit and determination hailed by judge

£1.6m PAYOUT FOR

BIRTH INJURIES BOY

Report by Lisa O'Brien

AN 11-year-old boy who suffered tragic birth injuries at Walsall Manor Hospital has been handed a £1.6 million compensation package.

The youngster, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was born with severe cerebral palsy, drastically affecting his speech, movement and intellect after his brain was starved of oxygen during his mother's labour.

He now finds it hard to get around without a wheelchair and has great difficulty talking and communicating.

When delivered at Walsall Manor Hospital in 2004, medics 'did not expect him to survive'.

Mrs Justice Thirlwall told the story of the boy and his courageous family as she approved a £1.63 million compensation package designed to cover his future care needs at London's High Court on Monday. She commended the 'sheer grit and determination' of his parents who refused to accept their son was living on borrowed time. Justice Thirlwall said when he was discharged home, the 'prognosis remained very bleak'. She said: "But his parents did not accept that prognosis."

Challenges

"They have been constant in their devotion to their son and that devotion and love shines through." The boy's mother submitted a statement to the court sketching out the challenges of caring for her stricken son, as well as the many delights.

It included an 'extremely moving account' of how the boy's elder siblings do their utmost to engage with their brother - including 'singing and talking' to bring him out of his isolation.

Despite his severe learning difficulties, the boy has made his own determined attempts to carve out a life for himself, and was described in court as a 'happy and delightful boy'.

The case reached the High Court as the family's legal team asked the judge to approve a final settlement of his damages claim against the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, after claiming that medical staff should have arranged for an earlier emergency Caesarean section delivery, but the Trust denied blame.

Mrs Justice Thirlwall said she had 'no hesitation' in approving the £1,630,000 settlement - which represents just over half the claim's full value. She added: "I must pay tribute to the parents for having the confidence that their son was capable of finding happiness in his life - and for the sheer grit and determination they have shown."

SEEING RED AS HUNT BEGINS FOR NIMBLE KNITTERS



Front, Councillor Gary Perry, with from left, Alan Dodsworth, Kim Dodsworth, Elaine Everton, Sue Hill, Julie Dixon and Heather Jones

KNITTERS - your village needs you. In an echo of the First World War call to arms, people are being asked to answer a special Remembrance Day plea.

Nimble-fingered volunteers are wanted to create poppies to decorate a village memorial clock. If the call is answered, it is hoped to completely cover the memorial in Pelsall with the woolly tributes.

Knitters are invited to take part in a two-hour session at the village centre on Saturday, October 17 between 10.30am and 12.30am.

The Big Knit is the brainchild of Council-

lor Gary Perry, who represents the ward. He said: "I'm always looking for inventive ways of funding the poppy appeal and putting the focus on Remembrance Day."

"I'd seen a similar project involving a memorial garden somewhere else in the country and thought how effective it had looked."

To encourage people to take part, two different patterns have been designed and more than 20 copies have already been sent out to local church groups and knitting clubs.

To raise cash for the appeal, organisers are considering charging £5 to dedicate a poppy

in memory of a loved one. Councillor Perry said: "Just two volunteers have made over 20 poppies in a week."

Knitters can either do their own thing or follow one of the patterns. As long as it's red and looks like a poppy it will be fine. "I bumped into our local MP Wendy Morton who told me she'd just bought some wool to take part in the project, which is fantastic." The poppies will be placed on the memorial clock on November 1 and a Royal British Legion volunteer will collect donations at the spot until Remembrance Day on November 11.

FLOODING

Service is called off as water pipe bursts

A CHURCH service at a Walsall performing arts centre, also home to a school and a TV station was cancelled after it was flooded when a pipe burst. Walsall Studio School, Big Centre TV and Walsall Community Church are based at the Goldmine media complex, in Lower Hall Lane, Digbeth.

Electronic equipment including sound gear belonging to the centre was damaged on Sunday. Centre staff were alerted to the problem by a passer-by who spotted water pouring under the ground floor doors to the street at 4.30am.

BLAZE

Walker's shock at burning home

A MAN discovered his house in Brownhills ablaze when he returned from an early morning stroll.

The householder, aged in his 50s, suffered burns to his hands and the effects of smoke inhalation after he walked into the property, in Vernon Avenue, at about 6am on Sunday.

Neighbours said he had been out walking his dog when he returned to the semi that has been left with 50 per cent fire damage, wrecked rooms and blackened walls throughout.

JOBS

TJ Hughes is ready for grand opening

DEPARTMENT store TJ Hughes opens in Walsall town centre today, creating up to 50 jobs. The retailer will open the new outlet in the store formerly occupied by Argos and will be a main retailer in the Saddlers Centre.

Doors to the new shop will be thrown open at 9.30am and visitors will be welcomed by the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Angela Underhill.

Angela Henderson, Saddlers Centre manager, added: "As the main anchor of the Saddlers Shopping Centre, it puts another household name department store on our high street."

INSIDE

WIN TICKETS FOR NEC FESTIVE FAIR



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Daughter of drowning victim in race



Sophie Gough

THE daughter of a Walsall man who died just hours after his canoe capsized is to run a marathon to raise awareness of a rare condition. Alan Gough died from a condition known as secondary drowning and 20 year-old Sophie is aiming to raise money for the Royal Life Saving Society UK.

Father-of-two Mr Gough, died at the wheel of his car in January, hours after apparently escaping unscathed when his canoe capsized in the Lake District. A post-mortem revealed the 57-year-old died from 'secondary drowning' – a rare condition which can happen hours after breathing in water.

His daughter Sophie, aged 20, is highlighting what happened to him by running in Exeter's Great West Run on October 18. She hopes to raise as much money as possible for RLSS UK, the UK's drowning prevention charity.

She said: "I am keen to raise as much awareness about secondary drowning as possible. I had never heard of it when dad died, I had no idea it existed. He didn't even mean to be in the water. What I find

hardest is this could have been prevented. If he had known to go and get checked this may never have happened and he could still be here."

Alan was a canoeist, a strong swimmer and a qualified scuba diving instructor. He loved the outdoors and was well known in the community through his job as a chartered surveyor and secretary of Walsall Rotary Club. Sophie, has just started her final year studying at Exeter University.

To sponsor go to her [JustGiving](http://JustGiving.page) page at www.justgiving.com/sophie-gough5

Petition against plan for homes hits 2,000

OPPOSITION is swelling against controversial plans for a housing estate on greenbelt land, with 2,000 people adding their names to a campaign.

A total of 136 homes will be build on a site off Landywood Lane, if planning permission is given by South Staffordshire Council.

But the plans by KGL Holdings, which come less than two years after similar proposals for new homes at the site were thrown out, have angered villagers.

Many feel, if approved, it will pave the way for entire swathes of greenbelt land to be built on and merge the village with Cheslyn Hay.

Residents living near the proposed development site have submitted 2,141 protest letters to the council, with hundreds more villagers detailing their objections to the controversial development on the council's website.

A decision is not expected until December and members of a protest group are being supported by South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson. He said:"I have fought tirelessly to protect our greenbelt land from being destroyed.

Rehashed

"In recent years, South Staffordshire has faced intrusions on our greenbelt from gypsy and traveller sites, fly tipping and inappropriate developments.

"Currently our greenbelt land is under threat from a rehashed proposal from 2013 which aims to build 136 houses on greenbelt land off Landywood Lane.

"If built, this development will threaten the identity of the villages of Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay and irreversibly damage our greenbelt land."

If approved, the site would also include 90 park and ride spaces for Landywood station, 17 allotments and 23 acres of public park. A total of 22 of the 136 homes would be classed as affordable.

At a public exhibition of the plans, held at Great Wyrley Community Centre, last month, Nigel Farmer, planning consultant representing KGL, said: "If we get planning consent for this then that will meet the local need until 2030 so there couldn't be any further development. We asked South Staffordshire Council if we could develop the 80 homes at Teddesley Estate but they would not support that."

Water sight to celebrate 60 years



The day ends in a glorious sunset after dozens of sailors took part in events to mark the club's 60th

CHASEWATER Country Park, near Brownhills, was transformed into an array of dinghies, sailboards and paddle boarders to mark Chase Sailing Club's 60th anniversary.

The vision of the commodore, Steve Turner, to see more than 60 craft on the reservoir was hailed as a great success by veteran members. Assisted by clear blue skies, 67 craft were in the parade by 12.20pm. A light breeze saw the anniversary pursuit race field more

than 50 participants in 34 craft. The youngest was Sophie Southall, at 11, while the youngest combination was Abbey Taylor and Ruby West. Howeverit was the experienced diehards in GP14s who took the honours, with Graham Flynn winning, followed by Pete Jacques and then Rob Stringer.

Spectators on the shore were full of emotions, renewing friendships with old acquaintances and meeting new members. Some recalled the loss of Peter Nickless, com-

modore 1973, and two female on-lookers recalled that it had been 40 years since they sailed a dinghy together. Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all, with the voluntary contributions raising more than £628 for the RNLI.

A lull on the water enabled Marilyn Morris the opportunity to give her departed husband one last sail in his favourite dinghy Biggles.

The day ended in a glorious sunset, an evening with a Rock'n'Roll band and beer at 60p a pint.

Detectorist 'criminals' criticised by club's chief

METAL detectorists who have been digging up playing fields in Walsall have been condemned as 'criminals' by enthusiasts.

The Bloxwich Research & Metal Detector Club have criticised those who have left holes in the football and rugby pitches at King George V playing fields.

Secretary Jim Wall said detector enthusiasts would not normally go on such council sites without the necessary permission and they would not dig up sports fields.

It emerged that parts of turf had been removed by some searching for hidden treasure. Mr Wall said: "They are not detectorists, they are criminals with detectors. We call these nighthawks.

"They tend to go out in the evening and dig holes where they shouldn't. Sadly people do it and they cast poor light on the rest of us who do it professionally and responsibly. Everywhere we search it is owned by somebody and we don't go anywhere without the permission of the landowner. It is the history we are looking at."

He added it was hoped those responsible for wrecking fields will be caught. The actions have already been condemned as a 'disgrace' by Bloxwich East councillor Kathy Philips, who claimed it is happening at Walsall Arboretum and in Brownhills also. "Once they have finished digging they just pat it down and then dogs or foxes come along and dig it back up."

New island set for completion

A NEW traffic island on a main Walsall route is to be completed by the end of November as part of a multi-million pound road scheme.

The roundabout at the junction of Wallows Lane and Bescot Road forms part of the £26m highways improvement package through Pleck and Darlaston.

Work is under way on the project and motorists are warned of delays, with overnight roadworks in place for three weeks from Monday as part of the project.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, deputy leader for Walsall Council, said: "This essential work is being carried out as part of our drive to improve the links for businesses who will eventually move to the Darlaston site of the Black Country Enterprise Zone."

80 new homes given green light

DOZENS of new homes will be built on the former site of Beechdale School as part of a multi-million pound scheme.

Council chiefs gave the second phase of the upcoming housing development, for 80 homes, the go-ahead. The site already has 40 homes built on it as part of a £5million development by Accord Group, after the school in Remington Road closed in 2007 and was demolished.

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Region is one of most deprived across UK

THE Black Country is one of the most deprived areas in the UK, new figures have revealed.

Both Sandwell and Wolverhampton are in the top 20 most deprived areas in the UK, with Walsall coming in 35th and Dudley 9th out of 152.

Sandwell was also ranked the third worst in the UK for education deprivation, fourth worst for income deprivation and fifth worst for employment deprivation.

Meanwhile Wolverhampton was ranked 13th for education deprivation, eighth for income deprivation and sixth for employment deprivation. Walsall was the ninth worst top-tier authority in the UK for education deprivation.

Emma Reynolds, the MP for Wolverhampton North East, said the figures were 'extremely worrying'.

She added: "It's one of the things I have been looking on the Government to stop making such drastic cuts to the council's budget because in a deprived area it only makes things worse."

"The council needs to be able to invest more in education and more in the local services."

"Whitehall is making decisions about the local level without really taking into account that our area needs more help and investment."

Asked about if deprivation is a problem regularly raised by her constituents, Ms Reynolds said: "It's not something that people like talking about is it? People tend to just get on with their lives. But people do struggle to make ends meet."

Officials may check services

GOVERNMENT officials will scrutinise Sandwell Council's children's services department to check it is up to scratch, and could step in if its performance is under par. A team from the Department for Education will probe whether the authority is looking after the service, which was ranked inadequate by Ofsted in June.

If the council is deemed incapable of improving the services, an independent commissioner could be parachuted in. The Ofsted inspection in June was the second time in succession the children's services at the council had been labelled inadequate.

Council leader Darren Cooper said he welcomed the visit from independent officials from the DfE and was confident the council was improving.

Firm raises cash for cancer group

STAFF at a security products firm based in Willenhall have raised £4,800 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Employees at the UK base of Assa Abloy took part in the charity's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Cash floods in for cause after Ark gig



John, centre with family and helpers

A RETIRED garage owner and his son are overwhelmed after receiving £1,500 for Macmillan at their charity gig.

John Smith, aged 68, and Andrew, 40, held a night of entertainment at The Noah's Ark pub in Clarke's Lane, Willenhall on September 16, where they smashed their initial target of £1,000.

They raised the funds in memory of John's wife, Ann, who died of cancer. The pair handed over the money raised this week.

John said: "It was a bit of relief that

everything went fine, but the help and support we've had made life easier. The target was £1,000, and half way through the night we'd reached it."

"By the end of the night we reached £1,344, and I put the extra up to £1,500."

"Everybody was gobsmacked that we raised that much."

"I'm chuffed. I think there'll be another one next year. It's been brilliant."

John said he was surprised by how many people were willing to help at the mention of Macmillan.

"It was amazing," he added. "It got a little bit out of hand to be honest!"

"It was a learning curve and everybody was brilliant. In the end it was just a matter of putting pen to paper and adding up what we'd made. It made it all worthwhile."

"Macmillan were very pleased with it. I was very pleased, especially for a first attempt, and there were no major hiccups."

"Next time we'll be aiming for £2,500. We've got to set ourselves a challenge."

Spurned woman bit and scratched ex-lover

A 'PERSISTENT' spurned lover scratched and bit her ex-partner during a row after he ignored her telephone calls and text messages, a court heard.

Dawn Moorhouse, aged 47, attacked Carl Hoosang at his Walsall home after he did not respond to her pleas.

Mr Tim Sapwell, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court the pair previously had an on-off relationship, but split up earlier that month.

He said: "Since they split he had a number of telephone messages and texts from her asking to see him."

"She was persistent so he started to ignore her."

"On the evening of the incident he took off his shirt to cut his hair when there was at the door at about 6.30pm. When he opened it there was no-one there."

"The banging continued and when he opened the door again she was there."

"She pushed him back and walked in and wouldn't leave when he asked her to."

Instigate

"She shouted and swore at him and said 'why you have you done that to me?'."

"He assumed that was because he had a new partner. She put her right hand to his throat while he was trying to make a telephone call."

"He thought she was trying to instigate a fight. She scratched him with her nails and bit him on the left side of his chest and upper arm. He managed to push her outside and then call the police."

Mr Sapwell said Moorhouse was arrested the same night. He said the officers said she smelled of alcohol and she told them she wanted to hear from him in person that the relationship was over.

The court heard that Moorhouse, of Mersey Road, Blakenall, Walsall, had 10 previous convictions between 1984 and 2009, including five for assault. She admitted assaulting Mr Hoosang in August.

Mr Nigel Stelling, defending, said at the time she was facing a cancer scare, but had since been given the all-clear.

Moorhouse was given a two-year community order with supervision, ordered to pay £200 costs, and made subject to a restraining order for three years.

Bridge work delayed for two months



Road closures continue in on the railway bridge in North Street, Walsall, with line electrification work

A WELL-USED route into Walsall town centre is to remain closed to motorists for another two months because of bridge work delays.

The North Street bridge has been shut as part of a £30 million scheme towards the electrification of the Chase Line. It needs to be rebuilt to accommodate overhead power lines between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley.

The route has been completely shut since the start of the year,

with the work due to have been finished in September.

However, signage has been put up saying that it will remain closed until November.

Network Rail spokesman Jon Crampton said: "We apologise for the delay in reopening North Street. We are doing all we can to complete the work as quickly and safely as possible and are in regular contact with the local authority regarding the project and our

progress. We are working towards reopening the road at the beginning of December."

The route is well used by traffic going to the Butts, town centre and as a short cut to Goscoe.

Blakenall councillor Pete Smith said: "It is very disappointing, it is causing diversions, which is then leading to traffic build up, particularly at peak times in Littleton Street. The queues can be horrendous."

NEWS IN BRIEF

£200k fine for waiting times

HEALTH chiefs in Walsall face a fine of almost £200,000 so far this year for patients waiting too long in A&E and ambulances, latest figures have shown. The level of fine for people not being seen within four hours at Manor Hospital's emergency department stands at £128,640 since April.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has been battling to reduce the amount of time patients wait and has hit the 95 per cent national standard.

The trust is also braced for a £65,200 fine for the amount of time people are left waiting in an ambulance. A report said there is a £200 fine for every handover between 30 to 60 minutes and £1,000 for over an hour.

Double ramble over weekend

THE Walsall Group of Ramblers will be holding two walks this weekend.

On Saturday, walkers will be making their way to Wall, near Lichfield, for a relatively easy route that is approximately 4-5 miles in length. Those interested should meet at Oak Park Leisure Centre's car park at 9.30am.

On Sunday, Ramblers will have the chance to take part in a moderate 9.25 mile walk in Winchcombe at the Cotswolds. It will take place at Cleeve Hill through Belas Knap before returning on the Cotswold Way.

Newcomers are welcome. For details, call the Cotswolds walk leader on 01922 685271. For details of future walks see www.walsallramblers.co.uk

Hospice marks care milestone

ST Giles Walsall Hospice has marked a significant milestone in the care of people living with cancer and other serious illnesses – the admission of its 1,000th patient.

Since the in-patient centre opened in April 2011, it has been making a difference to the lives of people in Walsall, providing a much-needed facility on the doorstep.

The 1,000th patient was Rose Taylor, aged 69, from Brownhills, who spent a week at St Giles Walsall Hospice so her medication could be adjusted to suit her better.

Centre revamp is to start next year

WORK on the next phase of Walsall's Old Square Centre revamp is due to get under way next year, it has emerged. New improved units are being planned as part of the £21million makeover of the town centre complex along with a glazed entrance.

Primark has already opened in the shopping centre and the next stage of the revamp is due to push ahead.

In a report to to the council, Walsall South area manager John Morris, said the relocation of the walk-in centre is helping to pave the way for the project.

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"WE try to ensure that there is no behaviour, language or imagery which could be considered racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic or ableist." Student Union spokesperson explaining why students at the University of East Anglia have been asked not to wear "stereotypical" sombreros handed out by a Mexican restaurant.

"WHO'S going to be offended - Speedy Gonzales?" Unnamed student, miffed at the above ruling.

I'M sure he is telling the truth but there's something about the name of one Volkswagen board spokesman that makes you wonder. Olaf Lies.

MY campaign to award exclamation marks to British towns and villages is gathering pace. As I noted a few days ago, the Devon village of Westward Ho! is the only place with one. So far your suggestions for exclamation-ennoblement include Tring! and Middle Wallop!

MY German diesel is rated at 40 miles per gallon. God knows how much I may have been short-changed by the emissions-fiddling scandal, and how much compensation the blighters owe me. So I filled the tank, recorded the total mileage and divided it by the gallons consumed, which is the only true test of any car's fuel consumption. It does not do 40mpg. It does 41.25mpg. Do I owe them?

THE Drama Channel has replayed the entire 1995 BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* to mark its 20th anniversary. The big surprise is to discover online that Jennifer Ehle, the definitive English rose who played Elizabeth Bennet, was actually born in North Carolina and speaks with an American accent, y'all.

THE death toll at last week's Hajj disaster is now reckoned to be over 1,000. Saudi Arabia's most senior cleric insists that the crush was "beyond human control." Nonsense. It wouldn't have happened in Disneyland.

ANACHRONISM Abbey. More 1915 terms allegedly spoken at Downton in 1925. Walking alone is "so liberating." Having a local hospital is "a huge plus." One character has been "put through an emotional wrangle." Not to mention the repeated use of the word "pregnant" which was a medical term in those days and not used in polite chat.

SO how did the cops know of an Indian summer? A reader tells of the crime-prevention leaflet delivered last week. It began: "Dear Sir/Madam, as the warmer months approach we normally see a slight increase in shed burglaries. . ."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

M'way plans criticised as 'reheated'

A £1.8 BILLION package of 'new' motorway improvements has been branded as 'reheating' old plans announced multiple times over the past five years.

Highways England unveiled 10 projects to cut congestion and improve journeys in the West Midlands at a launch in Birmingham.

The schemes heralded include building the M54/M6/M6 Toll link

road, first announced in 2003, revived in 2010 and funding committed in 2013.

There is also the construction of two new bridges at junction 10 of the M6 at Walsall to widen the roundabout and create four lanes, announced in July last year by Chancellor George Osborne, and upgrading the M6 junctions 13-15 from Stafford to Stoke to four lane 'smart

motorways' with variable speed limits, first revealed in summer 2013.

M5 improvements between junctions 5-7, were announced in December. To mark the announcement, Highways England regional director, Tim Harbot said: "These new schemes will bring huge improvements to journeys around the Midlands." But Warley MP John Spellar was critical, saying many of

the schemes had been announced at least three times in the past year.

He said: "I am absolutely astonished that the transport department and their companies are continuing to rehearse existing proposals and give the impression that they are new. Good hardy folk in the Black Country and West Midlands will not be fooled by this. We want less talk and more action."

Delay until next year for £1m baths revamp

By Simon Stone

WORK on a £1 million makeover of Walsall Gala Baths has been delayed until next year, it has emerged.

A revamp of the outdated town centre building was initially due to be completed by the end of 2015.

A new family changing village, re-modelled reception, sauna and a boom to split the Gala Pool for a main and learner section are proposed for the refurbishment of the 50-year-old site.

However, the council says a need to agree a programme of works means the work will not begin until January. The baths in Tower Street will remain operational for the rest of this year.

It is not known at this stage when works will be completed.

An update report to the council said: "Despite initial hopes to get work completed before Christmas we have now had confirmation from our contractor that no work will begin until January 2016.

Abestos

"We are currently working with the contractor to produce a detailed schedule of works with as little disruption to our normal operation as possible."

Some initial works to remove asbestos was carried out earlier this year. Council chiefs have insisted it will improve leisure provision in the town.

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "This is an exciting development for Walsall Gala Baths, seeing Walsall Council investing £1m to improve the range and quality of facilities on site.

"The programming of the works is necessarily complex as the council seeks to achieve the maximum improvement whilst limiting the impact of the works on service users.

Workers rack up 95 years at metal firm



Front, Kashmir Singh, 45 years service, Chris Sadler, Rose Myatt with her husband Geoff, 50 years service

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pair of loyal workers at a Walsall firm who have clocked up 95 years of service between them. Geoff Myatt and Kashmir Singh both began at Bradken straight out of school.

Mr Myatt, aged 66 and from Wednesbury joined the metal castings firm in 1965 as a pattern maker. But he has worked his way up and is now a methods engineer overseeing all of the staff in the patterns department.

The real ale and steam train enthusiast has also featured in company brochures.

Michael Platt, who himself has served at Bradken for 24 years, issued glowing praise for Mr Myatt. He said: "He is extremely dedicated and his attendance has been exceptional over the years.

"It would take a lot to stop him coming into to work. He is like one of the family here. He certainly knows his stuff as well. We have about 3,000 patterns but if you give him the number of one he'll have a think but he

will tell you what it is. He knows this place like the back of his hand."

Mr Myatt who has racked up a half century was recognised alongside Mr Singh who is just five years behind.

The 61-year-old from Reedswood is a shell core maker but has become a jack of all trades at Bradken doing everything from operating the forklift to overhead crane driving.

Mr Platt said: "He is very multi-talented and he is reliable but he is also a nice lad as well. He often brings Indian food in for the lads and looks after them which is very much appreciated by everyone. He is just a family man at heart, with three daughters and three grandchildren. But like Geoff he wants to carry on and get 50 years." He added: "The firm has changed a lot of the years it used to be Darlston Iron Foundries in the 1800s and had around 1,500 workers. We have about 60 employees now as times have changed."

Jail for man in false tax claims to fund habit

A CONMAN who pocketed almost £25,000 making false claims on the tax returns of friends to fund his cocaine habit has been jailed.

Alan Jones, whose only qualification was that of a book keeper, was paid for the services by friends who believed he was honest.

The 39-year-old repaid that trust by changing their bank details to his own so unjustified rebates from bogus claims made in their name flowed into his bank account. The cash funded his £1,000-a-week cocaine habit, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The scam started with the junkie making false claims on behalf of himself and his partner but soon spread to include several other people who were either friends or had been recommended to him by word of mouth.

This allowed him to fraudulently collect a total of £24,509 in unwarranted rebates during the three years of the scam before it was uncovered.

"It was a sophisticated, planned and sustained course of dishonesty," said Miss Blondelle Thompson, prosecuting. He was arrested on August 29 2013, interviewed the following November and finally appeared in court for the first time in August last year.

Mr Jonathan Challinor, defending, declared: "He logged on to the HM Revenue and Customs and submitted information online that had the effect of generating a tax rebate. The simplicity of this led him to expand the operation. "He fell into the temptation of making false payments."

Jones, of Stafford Road, Walsall pleaded guilty to seven counts of false accounting and was jailed for 16 months.

Vodafone cash to help groups with projects

A £1,000 DONATION is available for Walsall charities as part of a special award scheme run by Vodafone.

Under a scheme run by the mobile phone company called the Vodafone Community Connection Award, any local charity can be nominated.

Nominated organisations must have a registered charity number, it should be a charity that makes a significant impact on the local community.

It cannot be a personal or individual plight, nor a government-funded organisation. The award must be for a specific project or purpose, rather than just to cover operating costs and it must be stand-alone rather than form any part of a larger contribution or bigger appeal.

The closing date for the competition is Saturday, October 31 and anyone, including representatives of the charities themselves, can simply walk into the Vodafone store at 41, Park Mall, The Saddlers Centre, Walsall to make a nomination. The store manager is Laura Jenkins.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Church centre's English classes

SPACES are still available for English speaking classes run at a Walsall church centre.

The sessions for residents with a second tongue are held at community project Mend-It based at Green Lane Baptist Church, in Burrowes Street.

Classes run from 1-3pm. A creche and refreshments are provided free of charge. Other activities at the centre off Green Lane, Birchills, include sewing on Tuesdays at 9.30am which cost £1. There is a tea and toast drop-in on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am. More details are on www.glibc.org

Bogus gardener is targeting elderly

A BOGUS gardener has been targeting residents in Walsall. An elderly woman was approached by a man claiming he had been sent to cut down branches in Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich.

The woman was told a neighbour had complained they were interfering with their telephone line and the work would cost £60. He returned with ladders and a saw but after being confronted left.

Kevin Pitt, of Walsall police, said: "The man has been seen in the area before and has allegedly tried similar scams."

Resurfacing to bring in delays

MOTORISTS are facing three weeks of delays on a main route in Walsall during resurfacing works.

It is being carried out at the junction of Bescot Road and Wallows where a new roundabout is being built, and started on Monday evening.

The route is a main link from junction nine of the M6 towards Walsall town centre and a road closure will be in place during some of the work. Traffic is diverted to Wood Green Road, Axletree Way, Park Lane, Darlaston Road and Bescot Road.

3G pitch move for Willenhall Town FC

A NEW football pitch, changing rooms and extra parking will be created at Willenhall Town FC under improvement plans.

A 3G artificial pitch will replace the grass surface and three portable buildings for changing and medical rooms off Noose Lane. The plans also include an 40 extra parking spaces between the side of the pitch and the adjacent Fibbersley Park Primary School.

Walsall Council were being recommended to grant the go-ahead.

Scouts' £80k boost

A SCOUT group has received a cash boost of £80,000 towards a new community centre. The 31st Sutton Coldfield West branch in Streetly has been given the money by the Veolia Environmental Trust. It has been granted through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Petition hits 700 names over road safety fears

AROUND 700 people have put their names to a petition calling for improved safety measures along a road where a young mother was killed and her sister seriously injured.

Campaigners are calling for action to deal with problems on the A34 Walsall Road, in Great Barr. And alongside the written petition around 200 people have liked a Facebook page set up for the campaign. Residents are battling to stop illegal U-turns and other dangerous manoeuvres at the Tower Hill junction near to shops, a pub and a restaurant.

And campaigners have pledged to set up stalls at upcoming community events to boost the number of names on the petition even further. Father-of-two Richard Evans, of Carmodale Avenue, launched the campaign and said people were very concerned.

At the end of August, 300 people had signed the petition which has jumped to nearly 700 in just under a month. Mr Evans said this showed the strength of feeling in the area about action being needed. Sarah Child, 26, was killed and her sister Claire seriously injured after being hit by a car at the junction.

The driver, Amirul Islam, from Lozells, Birmingham, was jailed for four years in 2013 after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving.

Claire suffered nerve damage in her right leg as a result of the impact. Visit www.facebook.com/CameraforClifton for further details on the campaign.

Townscape bid nearly complete

A £1.5 MILLION scheme to restore historic buildings to their former glory in Willenhall is due to finish soon. The Willenhall Townscape Heritage Initiative to spruce up more than a dozen businesses started last year.

Work has included roof repairs, repointing of brickwork and replacement of windows. Among those to have benefitted from the funding have been American Nails and The Sandwich Shop, in Stafford Street, Blunts Shoes in Market Place, JR Holyhead in Cross Street, RS News in Wolverhampton Street.

The money has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall. Furthermore, Walsall Council contributed a further £50,000.

Saddlers in the black for season

WALSALL Football Club has reduced its long-term debt to £144,000 after making profits of £26,000 in the last financial year. It is the tenth consecutive year the club has made a profit, according to chairman Jeff Bonser.

Family time's worth £1bn for Steve



Willenhall-born founder Steve Smith

ALMOST every businessman wants to spend more time with their children – but Steve Smith gave up a chance of running a £1 billion company for that.

The Poundland founder says he is delighted the business he started on a market stall in Bilston is now taking over its major rival, the 99p stores.

And he is now putting his own money and advice towards helping other upcoming entrepreneurs start their own companies, saying many would not have the type of support he got from his father in the form of

the £50,000 loan that began one of the high street's biggest success stories. Willenhall-born Mr Smith, aged 52, started Poundland in 1990 and sold the chain 10 years later for £50 million.

He lives in a 13-bedroom mansion in Romsley, between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster with his wife, Tracey, and their children Katie, Ashley and Joe. "If I'm honest it would have been nice to continue, but it's about getting the balance right," he says as he is asked about Poundland's success since the sale.

"I think it's fantastic to see the business turning over £1 billion, which was my dream for it."

"But I don't regret selling it. My daughter would still be asleep when I left in the morning to go to work and she'd be in bed asleep when I came home at night."

"I wanted to spend more time with her and with my two young boys."

Mr Smith now runs chairs Greenfield Capital, which provides bridging loans and invests in various businesses. He also has a property business, Estates Direct.

Care home to be closed after safety problems

A WALSALL care home is on the brink of shutting down following a raft of safety concerns raised by a health watchdog.

Damaged and cracked wheelchair ramps, trip hazards and poor lighting were among a list of maintenance issues flagged by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) at the home in Darlaston referred to as 35 Avenue Road.

The home accommodates autistic people and those with learning disabilities. A shower which leaked water into the corridor and ceiling tiles about to collapse were also flagged up by an inspector during the unannounced visit in July.

The CQC report stated: "Staff we spoke with thought the premises and environment in the home was safe. However, we found instances where the safety of people could be compromised. We looked at the access to the front of the home and found that the approach to the building was via two concrete ramps. We saw both ramps were uneven in parts."

Wooden

"This posed a risk of falls to people. We saw a wooden ramp was used to access the back garden, we found one of the wooden panels was loose and rocked back and forth creating a tripping hazard."

It follows an inspection in the same month last year where the issues had been previously raised. An action plan to address the problems had been set out but work was not carried out. The report also said: "We looked at the ground floor shower room door as it had been replaced since our last inspection. We saw there was no seal to prevent the water leaking into the corridor when the shower was being used."

Following the latest visit the CQC concluded the home required improvement particularly in the areas of safety, effectiveness and leadership. The watchdog is now considering enforcement action.

Despite the findings a large number of positive aspects were highlighted. Inspectors found that staff met a lot of the standards required stating they met were caring and responsive.

Bosses at Pathway Care which run the home have confirmed its closure is now imminent.

A spokesman said: "We informed the CQC earlier in the year of our intention to de-register the home and close it. The inspection was carried out subsequent to this notification."

Leggy ladies snap up calendar bid



The members of the Park Hall Women's Institute, at the United Reformed Church Hall in Walsall

MOVE over the Calendar Girls – Women's Institute members bared their thighs for charity to mark the organisation's 100th anniversary.

Members of Walsall's Park Hall branch got their legs out and posed with a shopping bags with the words 'The WI puts its best leg forward'.

Secretary Barbara James, aged 81, of Brookhouse, said: "One of our members thought we'd copy

the Calendar Girls, but we'd just show our legs. It was a bright idea to celebrate 100 years of the WI and bring us into focus. We had a lot of fun."

"The photographer came out and laid everything out – he wouldn't charge us because he enjoyed it so much."

As well as the bags, members of the group dressed up in period clothing and enjoyed a night of post-war entertainment at their

meeting place in United Reformed Church Hall.

Mrs James, who has been in the WI since 1976 and the group secretary for 30 years, said: "We decided to dress up, get out our computers and see what people used to wear. It wasn't that difficult, some of the stuff in my wardrobe is that old!"

"The membership is growing," Mrs James said. For more information visit www.thewi.org.uk

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Baffled by television Bake-Off's popularity

I KNOW nothing about rugby, and to be frank I find the oval-ball game about as interesting as a box set of Downton Abbey.

But the England team went into this World Cup under the slogan "let's get the job done."

That's not a battle cry, it's an advert for a plumbers' merchant. No wonder they were ballcocks.

MAYBE the story about the Government allowing police forces to use devious, covert methods to snare speeding drivers, and then changing its mind following tabloid intervention, should be treated with a degree of scepticism.

But what says so much about Britain today is the explanation given by the Government for dropping the code of practice which said cameras only be bright yellow and only located at accident blackspot. "A Department for Transport spokesman said the 2007 rules were out of date," said the report.

Oh yes, out of date. That time-honoured, catch-all phrase for everyone with no other justification for their actions. Aside from the fact that the guidelines were introduced only eight years ago, since when has transport legislation been about the whims of fashion?

There are lots of things about our judicial systems that are out of date. Judges wearing wigs, Lords wearing ermine. Titles like Lord Chancellor and Mr Justice Smith. By and large they are harmless, and if anything maybe give a bit of gravitas to the proceedings.

But rules saying that speed cameras should be sensibly located and not hidden from view? Surely that's just fair play and common sense.

If the guidelines do need updating, how about adding a requirement that every camera should be clearly marked with what the actual speed limit is? I know at this point the pedants will point out that in the absence of a sign to the contrary national speed limits apply, which means 30 in a built-up-area, 60 on a single carriageway, and 70 on a double. But why not make it easy? They do want people to stick to the limits, don't they?

Meanwhile, it was revealed at the weekend the closure of 28 police stations around West Midlands. We all know cash is short and cuts have to be made, but how can it be right leaving a town the size of Dudley without a police station, and then spending money on hidden speed traps? Maybe they think police stations are out of date as well.

THEN again, there are some things about life today I find difficult to get my head around.

Like how is it that the most popular programme on television today is about a bunch of people baking cakes?



Student Billie-May Ridding, aged 17, in the dance studio



The gym at the Walsall College Performance and Sports Hub



The sports hall at the hub, with activities during the open day

Big kick-off for £11m new college campus



Billie-May Ridding, Connor Bell, Alex Gunn, Stephan Mcwee, with Dave Heeley and Seamus

A NEW multi-million pound college campus was officially launched with a range of sports and activities.

The £11m business and sports hub at Walsall College was at the centre of a fit and fun day.

A 5km walk from the Littleton Street West site to Walsall Arboretum kicked off the entertainment on Saturday, September 28.

This was followed by a range of sports and activities, with barbecue food on offer and the opportunity to receive a free fitness test using the latest technology in the gym.

Principal and chief executive of the college, Jatinder Sharma OBE, was joined by deputy mayor of Walsall councillor Kath Phillips and 'Blind Dave' Heeley, from West Bromwich to cut the ribbon.

Walsall College's much-anticipated £11m business and sports hub is now up and running. **CRAIG HUGHES** reports

Mr Sharma OBE said: "I am delighted that The Hub is now officially open to the local community we pride ourselves on serving.

"This represents a new era for Walsall as this is the first facility of its kind to be built in the borough.

"From the onset the vision has been to create a space which addresses two of the area's key initiatives; creating a thriving economy for all by enabling budding entrepreneurs to develop the skills and confidence they need to establish their own businesses, and giving the wider community greater opportunities to im-



One of the new lecture and conference rooms at the Littleton Street-based premises

prove their health and fitness, by taking part in sports and physical activities.

"I very much look forward to seeing students and members of the community taking advantage of the fantastic facilities we have available."

The Hub features a range of state-of-the-art facilities including a multi-purpose sports hall, dance and fitness studios, gym, spa, sports training and injury clinic.

There is also an incubation centre for start-up businesses, conference and event facilities and a 40-seat bistro restaurant. The new hub sits next to the main college, which opened in 2009 after more than 18 months of construction and followed a land swap agreement with Tesco. Work on the new hub started in August 2014.

Construction students also put their stamp on the facility and for one student this has led

to a permanent job. Chris Roberts, aged 18, had only just completed the Level Three Electrical Installation course at the college in the summer but following a work placement on the development, he was offered a position as a trainee electrician with David Paradine Ltd, the electrical sub-contractors who worked on The Hub.

Before work on the project began, a deal was struck between the college and Interserve Construction, the contractors leading the development, to offer valuable placement opportunities to students.

Several students have completed work experience onsite, covering a range of trades including brickwork, electrical installation, plumbing and quantity surveying.

It forms part of the Gigaport, which aims to create a £400m business and office development through Walsall.

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Praise for young hero rescuer Jack

I FEEL that I must give full praise to young Jack Haines of Barr Beacon School, Aldridge. His selfless act, of rescuing a young girl from drowning, deserves every recognition.

His parents must be so proud of him, well done Jack! Coincidentally, I only saw Jack's story in the paper, because I was looking at the report opposite on new memorial obelisk at the National Memorial Arboretum. I am on the photos marching with my comrades. Alongside us is RSM George Long, Parade Marshal, a fine figure of a man. What is rel-

evant here is that RSM Long, when he was Sgt Long in Iraq on September 19, 2005, was under attack by the enemy.

The armoured vehicle was set alight by petrol bombs. Sgt Long came out of the vehicle completely engulfed in flames. Private Hinett was badly burned too. Once extinguished, Sgt Long immediately ensured that Pte Hinett had reached medical aid. He then continued the fight. So there you have two heroes, on adjacent pages.

B JORDAN
Hednesford

Midlanders were in the battle too!

WATCHING and listening to the commemoration of the Battle of Britain, 75 years on, I felt there were one or two parts missing.

It seemed to be mainly focused down south.

There was no mention of the other squadrons protecting the middle and the north of the country that did their part.

Dan Snow talked about how the Spitfire was improved from Mark One to Mark Nine. He failed to say this could not have happened if it had not been for R J Mitchell and his design.

I think I only heard Castle Bromwich mentioned once. This factory made more Spitfires than any other.

There was no mention made of the labour force that made this plane, who worked all hours, mainly women.

Without this labour force in all the factories around the country there would have been no Battle of Britain. This country of ours only seems to be one area – the south.

B LAWLEY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Social housing will rebuild communities

HOME ownership is now at its lowest level for nearly three decades. We need a vast programme of building social housing. Private rents must be controlled and, security of tenure improved. Build new family sized houses urgently. Why is this such a difficult task?

As private landlord 'sharks' consume many family-sized houses breaking them up into single apartments. We are witnessing the end of our cohesive, family-friendly, caring communities.

Where we were once known now is a town where everyone is a stranger. Not only that but, the fear is that the stranger is stopping you or your family member from getting a decent fam-

ily-sized house, to call a home.

Demand for housing increases as supply drops. We are in a housing crisis. Family-sized houses are the prize everyone wants to attain. Everyone undervalues how a home with a family contributes to any community. Everyone except the private speculator who wants your home as the next profit margin. A home, then just a house, then six single room bedsits, then more profit, at the expense of your community or state.

A business plan away from the streets we want to live on, with neighbours and friends we are pleased to meet and greet.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

Situation is M.A.D.ness

ONE of Jeremy Corbyn's much-mocked views is the stupidity of our nation in maintaining a nuclear deterrent. The basis for such a deterrent was based on the doctrine of M.A.D. – Mutual Assured Destruction.

It's claimed that M.A.D has kept the world safe for the last 50 years.

If the Russians blasted us out of existence we would do the same to them.

Our billion-pound Trident system is designed for an enemy that no longer exists and sails under the enemy which certainly does – extreme Islam.

We, the French, the Russians, the Americans have a fleet of strategic nuclear submarines costing billions patrolling the world's oceans. Meanwhile, our enemies arrive on our shores in £20 rubber dinghies.

That really is MAD.

Find out about your diabetes

DIABETES UK is hoping to hear from people with diabetes who would like to talk about their experiences of attending a diabetes education course.

Diabetes is a life-long condition and one that requires constant management. People with diabetes are also responsible for the vast majority of their own care.

Diabetes UK know attending a diabetes education course can be life changing. To find out more, visit www.diabetes.org.uk or call our Carline on 0345 123 2399.

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Plaudits taking off for school with award



The Platinum Partnership award was presented to David Mounthey and students by Squadron Leader C A Rossi

AN academy in Walsall is celebrating after being given a nationally-recognised award. Staff at Aldridge School in Tynings Lane were presented with the Royal Air Force Platinum Partnership award in recognition of the link between the school and the service, which supports students interested in joining after finishing their education. David Mounthey, headteacher, said: "We were delighted to gain the Royal Air Force Platinum award. "We are pleased that our students are embarking on re- warding careers in all areas, including the RAF, after their hard work at Aldridge. We are also pleased that the award supports us in developing these links. We aspire to prepare students for moving on to their next step, whether that be university, further training, apprenticeships or work. "Throughout the year we have a thorough careers programme that prepares students for their next step after secondary or sixth form education." Aldridge is one of 60 schools in the West Midlands and Wales to receive the award.

Market work to start

IT has hit significant delays – but work is now finally due to start on a new £1.75 million permanent home for Walsall Market. The long-awaited project will finally get going by the end of the year, it has emerged. The improved pitch has been held back due to Network Rail carrying out the electrification of the line running through the town centre. The new-look market around The Bridge will include 70 stalls which will be removable to create a public open space when not operating. The historic 800-year-old event will also be capable of opening for seven days a week rather than the current five. In a report to full council, deputy leader Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "Work on the new Walsall Market is expected to commence in the next few months which will help to revitalise a popular and traditional feature of the town centre, this has been delayed through complications due to Network Rail." It emerged last year that work to rebuild a bridge underneath Park Street would cause delays in the project. Spokesman for Network Rail, Jon Crampton said: "Work to rebuild the railway bridge on Park Street is due to start in October.


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Brave Poppy winning fight to beat cancer

IT was first spotted by her doctors in January – a squint in her eye later revealing a rare form of cancer.

Poppy Chandler, aged two, from Bloxwich, has since been receiving chemotherapy for the condition called retinoblastoma.

The cancer occurs while the retina is maturing and affects around only 50 children in Britain each year, usually those under the age of five. Now, her parents Michelle and Martin, hope she is now well on the road to recovery.

Along with her five-year-old sister Lucie, the family want to now raise awareness of the disease. Mrs Chandler said: "The news we received at the start of the year was just terrible but Poppy is doing really well."

"We're all hoping that despite 2015 beginning on such a low we'll be able to end it on a real high with our little girl being able to ring the bell to signal going into remission."

Changing

The rare cancer can affect one or both eyes but, thanks to greater understanding and new methods of treatment, more than 98 per cent of those diagnosed are cured. Early warning signs include a squint, an abnormal appearance of the pupil that means the affected pupil appears white in flash photographs, poor vision or the coloured part of the eye, the iris, changing colour. Poppy's family are now hoping that in the near future she will be able to ring a special bell in the hospital's oncology department to mark the end of her treatment.

Mrs Chandler added: "We were in shock when it was first mentioned to us that there was a possibility Poppy might have eye cancer. It's not something you hear about so we didn't have any real idea what retinoblastoma was. In the few days before it was con-



Recovering well, Poppy with parents Michelle and Martin and big sister Lucie

firmed we had done our own research, so in a way were prepared for what we were told but, obviously, it was still a really tough time.

"However, how it was explained to us at Birmingham Children's Hospital; what it was and the plan for Poppy moving forward, helped us focus on how our little girl was going to get better."

A number of factors are taken into account when deciding on treatment including the size of the tumour.

Mrs Chandler said Poppy spent several periods in hospital with a

high temperature due to the chemotherapy and also had to have blood transfusions. She added: "After the chemotherapy, her blood counts drop. She was more prone to getting ill and infections and she sometimes had a temperature and got poorly."

Dr Helen Jenkinson, lead oncologist for the national retinoblastoma service at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "We're delighted to see Poppy doing so well. She's a very brave little girl who has been supported by a wonderful family."



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Excellent sixth-form teaching

ST Thomas More has one of the largest school sixth forms in Walsall and Wolverhampton with 300 students and a wide range of courses to meet individual student needs.

It is delighted to be in the top 25 per cent of sixth-form providers for student progress. The sixth-form teaching was also graded as excellent.

It seeks to develop the whole person and ensures all students are ready to thrive in the university course or career of their choice.

Sixth-form students are role models for the younger members of the community and are

ambassadors for the school. The sixth form offers an excellent opportunity to study with experienced, dedicated and caring staff. Students receive high levels of pastoral care, individual programmes of study and personal tutoring in skills such as essay writing.

Record numbers of students have achieved places in the most competitive Russell Group universities, and more students are going to study prestigious courses like law, medicine and dentistry.

Students have the chance to develop their strengths, preparing them for either higher education or employment. The school encourages students to take on community responsibility as

both colleges and employers see this as a great asset in young people. The school views a partnership with parents as being fundamental.

Underpinning all of this is a Catholic school where its actions and relationships must be informed by Gospel values.

It offers a wide range of subjects, including more traditional A-levels and vocational-based courses. Sixth-form students work with senior staff to develop their own resources.

This year a new study bistro has been opened and additional laptops have been provided in response to sixth-form feedback.

All students undertake an ASDAN Volunteering Award and the school also offers a selection

of enrichment activities including Young Enterprise, mentoring, first aid, photography, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and the opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Entry requirements for a traditional A-level course are at least five GCSE passes (A*-C) in five different subjects, including a grade C or above in English language and mathematics.

The school also offers an alternative Level 3 vocational-based curriculum for students who have achieved at least five GCSE passes (A*-C) in any subjects. For students who achieve fewer than five GCSE passes (A*-C) it offers Level 2 courses.

This year A-level results saw an increase in

the top grades, with 59 per cent of all subjects achieving A* to B grades. Individual success at A-level this year include Paige Karadag, who achieved two A*s, one A and a grade B at A-level.

One sixth-form student says: "The school has helped me to reach my potential. Support from teachers has helped me develop as an individual. After seven years at St Thomas More I have grown as a person. There is space for creativity, independence and fun in learning."

For more information contact Rosemary Simmonds, head of sixth, on 01902 368798, ext 1140 or send an email to postbox@st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk

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Warning over 'Walsall County' phone calls

PHONE scammers claiming to be working with the NHS are targeting people in Walsall.

Victims are told they are being contacted by a representative of Walsall County Council, which does not exist. The scammer, who uses a withheld number, says they are calling about accidents and that they are working

with the NHS. Councillor Adrian Andrew, deputy leader for Walsall Council, said: "Recently a number of residents have reported receiving calls from people claiming to be from Walsall County Council with information from the NHS concerning accidents.

"All residents must be on their guard and ready to recognise bogus

calls of this nature. Everyone should be very careful when disclosing sensitive information. My motto is if in doubt don't give it out!

"Anyone receiving such calls should not give any information to the caller and report any details to Trading Standards on telephone number 01922 653040 or 01922 653050."

Let it goal! New sporty space a winner



Pupils Amal Usman, left, and Charlie Staples, with Mayor Angela Underhill and Sgt James Boulton of Walsall Sea Cadets

THE sporting stars of a Walsall school are hoping to boost their growing reputation for athletics even more after the installation of £50,000 of games equipment. Pupils and staff at Blue Coat C E Junior School attended an unveiling of the new facility by Walsall mayor Angela Underhill.

Youngsters at the school are already building a reputation for their sporting abilities after being crowned Black Country athletic junior champions for three years running and becoming holders of the Sainsbury's gold kite mark award. Peter Prasadam, head of the juniors, said: "It was on the back

of these successes that we applied for a grant from Sport England and the National Lottery. Pupils had already demonstrated they had ability to make good use of the facilities. We are delighted with this new provision which will be used by the wider community outside the normal school day."

Officers from the local Sea Cadet group, which will be using the facility, and the chair of governors, Mrs Margaret Tonks, were also at the unveiling on Friday September 25.

An existing playground at the school has been refurbished with a special surface and equipment. Anthony

Orlik, the school federation's executive head, said: "Our pupils love sport and it is wonderful for them to have this great new facility. Our families reside in a built-up, urban area so it is great that this exciting, recreational space has been created."

The school's 360 pupils will be able to use the sports facility as well as around 50 during after-school activities. Before performing the official opening ceremony, the Mayor presented awards at the school's weekly celebration assembly which was attended by all the Blue Coat Junior School pupils and many parents.

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Mark's hopes put on ice

WALSALL'S sprinting gold medallist Mark Lewis-Francis makes the switch to the ice as he is set to be included in this season's Great British bobsleigh squad.

Mr Lewis-Francis, who took gold in the 2004 4x100m Olympic relay sprint final, aims to qualify for the 2018 Winter Olympics which is taking place in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

But aside from permanently hanging up his running spikes, the 33-year-old still has ambitions to reach the summer Olympic finals in Rio next year.

Digby may be tempted to run for mayor role

DIGBY Jones, one of the most prominent figures in the world of British business has admitted he is "sorely tempted" by the idea of running as the mayor of the West Midlands.

But Lord Jones of Birmingham said the chances of his putting himself forward as head of the region's new combined authority were currently no more than "five or 10 per cent".

He was talking during a business mini-conference on board the Queen Elizabeth cruise liner at the weekend, organised by Black Country property tycoon Roy Richardson and his family.

Senior company executives, including Francis Robin Herzberg from Carillion, and leading figures from the business community - including the president and chief executive of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, David Waller and Paul Faulkner - took part in a series of debates on the combined authority.



Lord Digby Jones

But the former director general of the CBI outlined his vision for the role, as someone 'out in Delhi and Rio winning business for the West Midlands', while an appointed cabinet, including someone he termed 'a back room fixer', ran the authority and handled local political disputes.

The event also heard from Johnathan Dudley, Head of Oldbury-based accountants Crowe Clark Whitehill, who said most of the firms he spoke to wanted to see the combined authority named Greater Birmingham.

"I am Black Country through and through, but if Birmingham and the West Midlands want to be competitive then things have to change. If you are going for a combined authority then make it Greater Birmingham or don't bother", he said.

Urged to put his name forward by many at the event, he declined, saying: "This is not the opening of the Digby campaign."

Man punched after refusal to buy drunk beer

A SHOP customer was punched in the face when he refused to buy a drunk can of beer. The single blow caused a displaced fracture to the cheek of Anthony Littlehailes, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Trouble flared when he was approached by complete stranger Shaun Jenkins in Lalli Wines at Moat Road, Walsall on Sunday March 8, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The 34-year-old with a drink problem and 13 previous convictions for assault asked for a can of beer to be bought for him. The victim refused and swore at Jenkins who punched him when they got outside. Staff from the shop intervened and he was arrested by a passing police patrol. Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, said it was six years since the last conviction of Jenkins for violence: "He had drunk too much and relapsed into his previous offending."

Jenkins from Wood Lane, Short Heath pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and was jailed for a year by Judge Stephen Eyre QC who said: "The victim and his partner had been for a walk when they went into the shop to buy some tobacco and had the misfortune to come into contact with you."

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Fundraiser is set to be a real cracker



The Rushall Development group, seen back left, Mike Blake-more, Alan Grice, front, Sue Blakemore and Peter Rattigan THE festive season has come early in Rushall, where villagers are preparing for their annual fundraising Christmas Lights Fair.

There will be games and stalls and English breakfasts will all be available at Rushall Community Centre on October 10, from 11am to 2pm, with raised funds going to pay for the village's Christmas tree later this year.

Sue Blakemore, aged 62, of organisers Rushall Village Development Group, said: "The council doesn't provide Christmas trees now, so about five or six years ago we decided if we wanted something, we'd have to do it on our own. We're not going to be selling Christmas things, we are just trying to raise £300 for the tree. If we make that then the council will give us the lights."

The village's Christmas tree is used for several festive events, including for a carol service. "It's the focal point of the village," Sue added. As well as a cooked breakfast, visitors to the free fundraising fair will be able to visit a jam and cake stall, take part in a number of tombolas, browse bric-a-brac and try out different games.

Support urged for junction bid by uni

A CONTROVERSIAL new junction off a main Walsall route is poised to still go-ahead – despite hundreds of objections.

The University of Wolverhampton wants to create a new access road from the Broadway to a planned 225-space car park on the site. A decision was deferred by Walsall Council planners last month.

The decision was put on hold amid a 450-name petition and another 50 letters of objection.

It was agreed to look at alternative options for access.

A list of other options which have been explored and not considered suitable, such as access off Delves Green Road and a one-way system at nearby Magdalene Road have been provided to councillors. Under the proposals a permanent car park would replace a temporary overspill one and would see access from Magdalene Road closed off.

A new traffic light controlled junction would be created on Broadway, which is one the main commuter routes in and out of the town centre. Councillors were recommended to support the original plans.

A football pitch will be lost but the university will invest £120,000 for im-

proved sports facilities to compensate for the loss. The all-weather pitch will be upgraded to 3G. Concerns raised by residents have included headlights glaring into their premises, impact on property values, extra noise and pollution and traffic issues.

But in a report, head of planning David Elsworth, says: "The applicant has undertaken a full transport assessment that explored a number of options and concluded that the proposed new signal junction and access road is the best option."

"On balance it is considered that the use of the new access is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on residents' amenity on the basis that there is an existing car park and traffic flows will not be directly affected."

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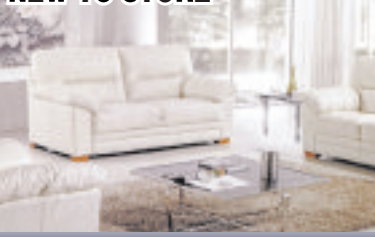
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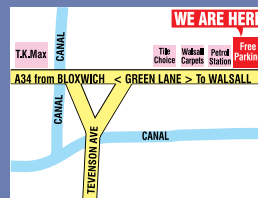
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The senior school seen from around 1938, during Mr Tilson's woodwork class



The first school, located in Chapel Street, seen in the 1900s



Right back to the swinging sixties when it became a mixed junior and infants school



A class from the Wesleyan School during the 1920s



The old school location as seen during the 1950s

Village school's past is history lesson in itself

APRIL 2016 will see Pelsall Village School celebrate 100 years at the School Lane site and the children, staff and governors are hoping to commemorate this very special birthday in style.

The school is also hoping for the help of its local community, which itself can date its own history back to the Domesday Book.

Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen, assistant head teacher said: "It has been part of the curriculum for many years now to teach children attending this 'village' school about their own heritage through the school's unique history."

"It had humble beginnings as a Methodist place of education at the Chapel Street location."

"This sits as part of the Perfect Pelsall Creative Curriculum topic."

This was where the application for building Pelsall's first national school in 1845 was made (it was later completed in 1848 at the princely cost of £432. 4s. 7d.).

By 1895 there were 395 children on

MEMORY LANE

Report by Simon Stone

the attendance roll but moving forward to the 20th century, in 1951, a government inspection revealed a general lack of facilities at Chapel Street and by the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, 1977, the building was no longer in use as a school.

Fortunately, a new site had been commissioned earlier in the century and in 1916, the infants school moved to the new council school, which came to be in the appropriately-named School Lane, hence the 2016 Centenary Celebrations.

Numbers

This is where the school's history becomes a little complex as in 1923 the School Lane site came under Staffordshire Council as a 'mixed' school and in 1931 the School Lane Infants school site closed and reopened as Pelsall Senior School!

In 1959-61 a new church school had been built on Maple Road site but was

used by the county council school to begin with due to growing numbers.

By 1964, the Pelsall Senior School had left the School Lane site for new site in Pelsall Lane and the Pelsall Mixed County Council School moved in to School Lane site.

During the 1970s a sports hall, kitchen, nursery and swimming pool were all added to School Lane site and by 1999, Pelsall Infant & Junior schools were amalgamated on the School Lane site to become the Pelsall Village School we know today.

Jane Clark, head teacher, is delighted in being able to offer the children of Pelsall Village School, this once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate its very special history at a time where educational values are a paramount aspect of the daily curriculum.

The school is warmly inviting past pupils, parents and staff to take part in a series of events throughout 2016.

And if there is anyone who thinks they can help the school with the loan of photographs or other memorabilia, please contact with details by email at postbox@pelsallvillage.co.uk or phone 01922 682073.



Pudding-basin haircuts were all the rage during the 1970s



The new school seen at the start of the new century

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Ethics expert at high school



GCSE students at Queen Mary's High School taking in the religious studies conference which was led by Dr Peter Vardy recently

THE Religious Studies Department at Queen Mary's High School invited theology author Dr Peter Vardy in to lead an RS conference.

All students from years 10 and 11 participated eagerly with the content of the day.

They looked at the importance of ethics, discussing various ethical theories such as situation ethics, natural law and utilitarianism to name but a few.

The girls then considered human rights, genetic engineering and what is argument through critical thinking. Throughout the day the

girls were involved in discussion and debate, finally ending the day with a debate on whether technology should be used to remove pain and increase pleasure.

A student spokesman said: "I can confidently say that Dr Vardy's conference was a great victory in stimulating our minds throughout the intense four-hour programme."

"It was thought-provoking, interesting and witty. This is because he enabled us to question things we never thought we would have to think twice about and allowed us to view life in a new light."

FLAMES ripped through a caravan and large stable block in a suspected arson attack.

The blaze at a farm in Railswood Drive, Pelsall, started minutes after owner Karen Kenyon had left after feeding and mucking out at the stable.

A Shetland pony inside fled before the flames took hold. The emergency services were alerted after plumes of smoke rising from the field were spotted by nearby residents.

A firefighter at the stables

Fire crews from Bloxwich and Aldridge tackled the blaze, which started in the caravan before spreading to the five-stable block, for almost an hour. Investigators believe the fire was started deliberately.

Mrs Kenyon, aged 51, said she believed whoever was responsible released the pony first. She said: "Someone knew the pony was in there. I'd been down to the stable at 7.20am, clearing out, and left about quarter past eight. The fire started half an hour later. Someone with a grudge did this."

The caravan and stable block, containing bridles, signage, horse blankets and other equipment, were destroyed in the blaze.

Watch commander Andrew Nicholls, from Bloxwich fire station, said several phone calls about the blaze had been received. He said: "All that was left of the caravan was the chassis and wheels."

A gas cylinder from the caravan exploded in the blaze but fire crews were able to prevent the flames from spreading to a second one. The family are now appealing for help in replacing some equipment such as horse collars, rugs, wheelbarrows, brushes and shovels. Family friend Bella Rochelle, 18, said: "They've lost everything. If people can help it would be very appreciated."



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Laurence Harrison
Consultant Solicitor

Laurence Harrison has joined the team at D&N Solicitors, Wolverhampton to head up the litigation department.

Laurence comes to the firm with over 25 years experience throughout Walsall and the Black Country.

Laurence is a highly experienced solicitor dealing with both commercial and private clients across a broad range of areas including landlord and tenant matters, debt issues, business disputes, contract disputes, inheritance claims, in the High Court and County Court.

Laurence said, "I am absolutely delighted to be joining such a modern, progressive law firm as D&N Solicitors who continue to go from strength to strength."

The partners at D&N Solicitors said, "Laurence is an excellent addition to the team and brings with him a wealth of

experience in all areas of dispute resolution and will help us to strengthen our practice further to both individual and business clients across the Black Country and surrounding areas."



**Jas Dhillon (Partner, on left),
Laurence Harrison
(Consultant Solicitor, centre),
Sanjay Nena (Partner, on right)**

PLEASE VISIT THE TEAM AT www.dn-solicitors.co.uk

Anti-smoking effort launched

A NEW programme to help parents quit smoking and prevent young people from picking up the habit has been launched. The campaign supported by Walsall Council Public Health is initially working with 10 secondary schools. It aims to give young people the facts about smoking to create discussions with their parents and carers who want to quit. Schools such as Shire Oak Academy, Grace Academy and Elmwood have already been visited. It involves working with QUIT, the UK charity that helps smokers to stop and young people to never start. Dr. Paulette Myers, consultant in public health medicine, said: "I'm pleased that Walsall Council Public Health is working with QUIT to trial this new approach, which has proven to be a success in other places, and to have the opportunity to come along today and see it for myself."

TGI Fridays aims for first Black Country restaurant, in Walsall

TGI Fridays is to open a restaurant in Walsall – the first in the Black Country for the American food giant, it has been revealed. The big name restaurant is to form part of the £12 million Walsall Waterfront complex in the town centre. It is the fifth retailer to be secured for the cinema-led complex off Wolverhampton Street and has been hailed as a coup for the town. It is the final unit as part of the first phase and comes after Chiquitos, Hungry Horse, Pizza Express and Bella Italia signed up for the development last year. The eight-screen Light cinema forms the cen-

trepreneurial piece of the ambitious complex with work pushing ahead for an opening by next spring. TGI Fridays' other restaurants in the West Midlands are in Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield and Solihull. It is thought the new restaurant will create dozens of new jobs. Councillor Adrian Andrew, deputy leader for Walsall Council said: "I'm delighted that TGI Fridays is coming to the town which will no doubt prove to be a huge hit with families. Bringing in such a big name is a sign of real progress for Walsall and I'm really looking forward

to the venue's grand opening early next year. "This latest announcement will perfectly complement the other restaurants already confirmed at Waterfront, which include Chiquitos, Hungry Horse, Pizza Express and Bella Italia." Phil Dove, head of UK operations for Light Cinemas, added: "We're excited and looking forward to welcoming TGI Fridays to Walsall which will add to the variety of restaurants at Waterfront which people may use when visiting our new cinema." Developers Kier is leading the multi-million pound project and handing over the cinema building to the operator this month. It will be kitted out with the latest hi-tech screen technology.

CCTV call to stop fly-tipping return

A CALL has been made to bring back CCTV cameras on wasteland targeted by flytippers and arsonists following another fire. Vandalism set light to dozens of tyres on waste land off Bull Lane, Moxley, on Sunday for the third time in less than a month. Councillors Paul and Chris Bott, who represent the area, said problems had resurfaced. The security device had all but stopped the practice but the camera was taken down about 18 months ago. The land, the site of the former Wesson factory, has recently changed hands and a planning application for warehouses is due. Mrs Bott said: "The site needs a security fence erected all around it by the new owners. The fly-tippers are not even discreet these days. The attack happened in broad daylight. The CCTV cameras that were put up about three years ago stopped all the fly-tipping and fires but the road has become a regular target again." She said she had contacted officers at Walsall Council.

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Minimum part exchange*	£1,400.00	Amount of credit	£9,554.00
48 monthly payments	£151.40	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.4p
Optional final payment	£4,095.00	Rate of interest	4.8% fixed
		Representative APR	4.9% APR

£1,900

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Representative Solutions Personal Contract Plan example subject to 49 month, 5,000 mile per annum agreement for a Polo SE 1.0 75PS 5-door.*

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Retail cash price with metallic paint	£14,479.00	Total amount payable	£6,808.20
Minimum part exchange*	£1,900.00	Amount of credit	£14,723.20
48 monthly payments	£184.65	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.4p
Optional final payment	£5,985.00	Rate of interest	6.17% fixed
		Representative APR	6.2% APR

£2,725

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Representative Solutions Personal Contract Plan example subject to 49 month, 5,000 mile per annum agreement for a Golf Match 1.4 TSI 5-door.*

Duration	4 years	Option to purchase fee payable with final payment	£10.00
Retail cash price with metallic paint	£21,644.00	Total amount payable	£24,375.38
Minimum part exchange*	£2,725.00	Amount of credit	£21,640.38
48 monthly payments	£263.38	Excess mileage (per mile)	7.2p
Optional final payment	£8,977.50	Rate of interest	4.88% fixed
		Representative APR	4.9% APR

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£3.2m Jhoots HQ shapes up for business



Jhoots' multi-million pound headquarters in Littleton street West, Walsall, near to completion, set to bring 30 jobs

IT has transformed a prominent Walsall town centre site, and now the multi-million pound Jhoots base is all but complete. The 20,000 sq ft offices for the pharmacy company have been under construction on the corner of Littleton Street West and Hatherton Street for a year.

With the dazzling glass, clear design and the company name emblazoned on the side, the building is now in place with staff due to move in within weeks.

The £3.2 million development is the latest step in the regeneration of the town and will house around 100 staff, creating 30 new jobs.

The Jhoots headquarters will also be sitting adjacent to the Walsall Housing Group office. Deputy council leader Adrian Andrew said: "It is brilliant, the investment in the town, the confidence in the town is great."

"The fact Jhoots have chosen to put their HQ in Walsall is good for the town. I have been involved in the project for several years and it is good to see it come to conclusion."

Jhoots' main base has been in Darlaston and the new base is part of £400m plans to transform land by the town's ring road.

Up to two other offices could be built

on the land of Jhoots. Council regeneration bosses believe up to 60 further jobs could then be created. The previous buildings on the site, including the former 100 year-old engineering firm Noirit which relocated to a location in Portland Street, were pulled down in summer 2012.

Walsall Council invested in the site to help push forward with the regeneration of the main corridor.

The shape of that part of the town has been changing rapidly, with the pulling down of a former tannery in Hatherton Street for long-term regeneration.



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Bursaries joy for Cambridge pair



Jemina Grant from Wolverhampton and Ramnik Uppal from Willenhall, who have both received bursaries

TOP students from the West Midlands have been bursaries towards their studies at the University of Cambridge by exam body OCR. A total of nine pupils, including three from the Black Country, have been given bursary awards.

Recipients of OCR bursaries receive £3,000 for each year of their undergraduate studies which they can use for living or tuition costs, or a combination of both.

In the Black Country, Jemina Grant, 18, from Fordhouses, Wolverhampton and Ramnik Uppal, 18, from Willenhall, both attended Wolverhampton Girls' High School. Jemina will be reading modern and medieval languages at Christ's College and Ramnik will be reading medicine at Fitzwilliam College.

Meanwhile, Anoop Sumal, also 18, from Rowley Regis, who attended Sandwell Academy will be reading medicine at Selwyn College.

Liam Sammon, OCR's director of education and commercial services, said: "We are once again thrilled by the rich pool of highly talented and conscientious students across the West Midlands."

School told to improve 'weak' pupil standards

A SCHOOL in Brownhills has been ordered to improve amid concerns over 'weak' pupil standards and a failure to monitor their progress.

Inspectors from Ofsted highlighted poor grammar, spelling and a need to improve mathematics at Brownhills West Primary.

A report following the inspection just before the summer break has highlighted a need to make improvements in four of five areas.

These include management, quality of teaching, pupil achievement and early year provision. The only good rating was pupil behaviour and safety.

However, despite being told to improve there were some strengths identified such as having a clear direction to improve, better attendance and some education progress. The school in Shannon Drive, which was rated as good in its previous inspection, has around 180 pupils aged from three to 11. It is now grade three rather than two.

Lead Ofsted inspector Heather Simpson said: "Teachers do not always check on the progress of all groups when they are working with a specific group and are therefore unsure how well pupils are doing, or whether the work provided

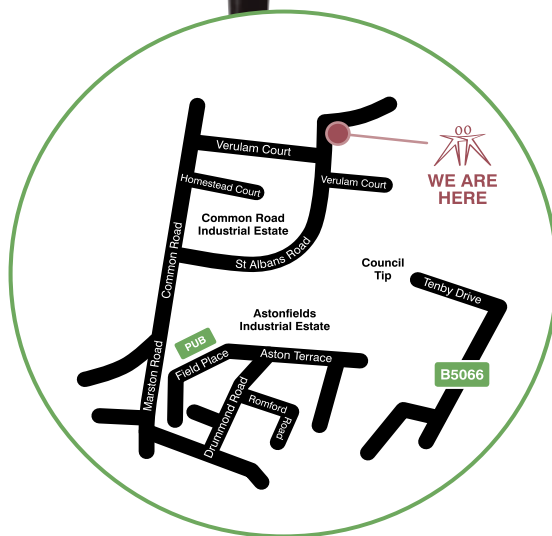
is too easy or too hard. For example, in a Year One reading lesson, the most-able pupils were reading a short non-fiction book which was too easy for them. They finished it quickly and had no further work to go on to, so time was wasted and their progress was limited.

"Pupils are now writing at greater length and the presentation of their work is improving. However, their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling is weak in most classes as teachers do not always focus closely enough on this aspect."

She added: "Pupils' achievement requires improvement because their progress has not been consistently good since the previous inspection and remains uneven across the school."

In 2014, standards fell to below average at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

By Craig Hughes



Festive Gift Fair just the Christmas ticket

COMPETITION

COMBINE your Christmas shopping with a fun day out as the Festive Gift Fair is back, this year celebrating its 20th birthday.

Chronicle readers can be there to enjoy all the fun of the fair. With more than 325 stalls from all over the country, overflowing with cracking gift ideas, visitors are guaranteed to be inspired.

One of the most popular Christmas shopping events in the UK, takes place at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from November 12-15 with more to see, try, touch, taste, buy and enjoy than ever before.

The variety is huge, with something for all the family – from babies to teenagers, from parents to grandparents!

Youngsters

There will be entertainment while you shop, courtesy of live bands, while the fair wouldn't be the same without the most outrageous Dame accompanied by Father Christmas himself.

For the youngsters there are lots of fun and games for tiny tots to school children to enjoy.

Presents to keep forever include thoughtful personalised gifts, tree decorations and stockings, together with and family heirlooms.

Christmas is the one time of the year when everyone can over indulge a little.

At the fair you can sample a host of festive favourites before you buy – from delicious cheeses to Christmas puddings and much more in between, with a host of beers and spirits also on offer.

Fragrances, candles, pampering products and cookery gifts can also be found under the one roof. For more information on exhibitors and visiting the fair, visit www.festivegiftfair.co.uk



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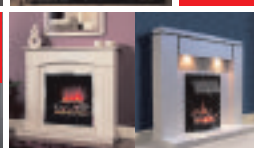


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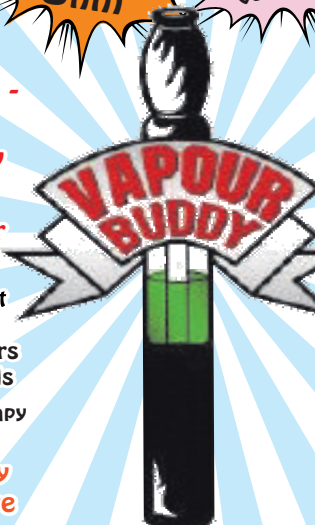
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ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

BIRMINGHAM'S Swim Deep go back to go forward on their second album, Mothers.

The light but compelling bliss pop of 2013's *Where The Heaven Are We* has been replaced by a tougher tripped-out sound blending psychedelic excess with the bleary-eyed trance dance sounds of baggy Manchester, circa The Stone Roses and The Happy Mondays.

There is the odd mis-step. Namaste sounds like The Boo Radleys given a tinny Stock-Aitken-Waterman production, while Forever Spaceman finds frontman Austin Williams channeling Syd Barrett around the time of Pink Floyd's *Interstellar Overdrive*. But the enhanced five-piece (keyboardist James Balmont now a fully-fledged member) have a fuller, more varied sound on *Mothers*, which the band dedicated to child-bearers, rather than Frank Zappa's *Mothers of Invention*.

Grand Affection is a compelling Depeche Mode-like groove and *Is There Anybody Out There* has cinematic grandeur. Other highlights include the wonky charms of *Green Conduit* and *Laniakea*, the Spandau Ballet meets Simple Minds sound of *Imagination* and the closing *Fuelho Boogie* built on a Giorgio Moroder-like disco beat.

Now *Mothers* gets road tested when Swim Deep have a home city gig at Birmingham Institute on October 17 as part of their UK tour.

Lana Del Rey takes her languid style of femme fatale vocals into echo chambers of chilled minimalist drama on her third major label album, **Honeymoon**.

The title track opens the album oozing the retro cool of a 1950s torch singer backed by icy strings. It sets the tone for a self-assured exercise in



Two years after their debut, Swim Deep release second album Mothers

magnificent morose moodiness, reaching a peak of gothic romance on *The Blackest Day*. The album closes with New Yorker Del Rey's sparse cover of Nina Simone and Animals hit *Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood*.

Formed more than ten years ago by a group of university students in Stafford, **Editors** have matured elegantly and are now among the finest exponents of dark, melancholy indie rock. Synths and strings, rather than guitars, are at the forefront of fifth album *In Dream*, which underlines the subtle shift in style since the departure of guitarist Chris Urbanowicz in 2012 and arrival of Justin Lockey and Elliott Williams.

Singer Tim Smith has developed a rich sonorous vocal (think Cave and Ferry) but it is flexible, going from mellow to anguished falsetto on opener *No Harm*. On three tracks he is joined by Slowdive singer Rachel Goswell, a particularly effective partnership on *Ocean Of Night*. *Life Is A Fear* and *Our Love* both have particularly seductive vibes and the album ends at its best with the rather lovely *At All Cost* and the slow-burning epic *Marching Orders*.

Editors are in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on October 16.

Exciting is not a word I have previously associated with Oxford's **Foals**. Efficient yes, but never exciting, until fourth album **What Went Down**.

The band have developed rock muscle to go along with the pulsating percussion and fluid guitar hooks, and singer/guitarist Yannis Philippakis has a tougher edge to his sometimes maudlin vocals. Both are apparent on the exciting title track and equally rocking *Snake Oil*. They also do epic well on *Albatross* and powerful finale *A Knife In The Ocean*. Foals play Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on February 19.

American singer/songwriter Nathaniel Rateliff is a good fit with the legendary Stax label, having reinvented himself as frontman of stomping R&B band **Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats**. Their self-titled debut is packed with original songs that will appeal to fans of classic blues and soul. His voice is similar to Paolo Nutini and his style unashamedly old school. Get sweaty with them at The Institute in Birmingham on October 18.

Shrek's trek is one that cannot be ogre-rated

Shrek, The Musical
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
By Graeme Andrew

INGENIOUS costumes, amazing sets, belly laughs throughout and superb music – *Shrek* rules!

William Steig's story of an ogre who finds love and friendship in a bid to secure his swamp after being overrun by ousted fairytale creatures, has translated brilliantly from the big screen to the musical stage.

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre resounded with roars of uncontrollable laughter as we were whisked along on the road to Duloc and beyond, as Shrek and Donkey follow their quest to rescue Princess Fiona from the clutches of the dragon.

With a host of new musical numbers to provide the narrative – showing off the cast's amazing vocal ability – the storyline closely followed the first *Shrek* film with a few hidden extras thrown in, to the delight of the crowd.

Hilarious

But the production really took off when Lord Farquaad was introduced into the proceedings. The staging problem of representing his, erm, 'limited' stature was dealt with ingeniously, with hilarious results. And canny old-hand theatre stalwart Gerard Carey absolutely makes the most of it, inducing tears of laughter with his antics.

Certainly the star of the show when it comes to the comedy aspect, there were many stand-out turns – Bronte Barbe as Fiona was top class with an amazing voice, and she too showed a deft comic touch.

Dean Chisnall, in the lead, is given the hardest job, trying to carry off a central acting role while wearing a no-doubt cumbersome *Shrek* suit and make-up, but he did well, showing real vulnerability when required, both in song and acting.



From left, Bronte Barbe, Idriss Kargbo and Dean Chisnall. Picture: Helen Maybanks

And Idriss Kargbo had a hard act to follow with Eddie Murphy's unforgettable performance as Donkey in the movies, but he acquitted himself well, bringing a touch of Cat from Red Dwarf with him.

Ex-Eastender Nigel Harman (remember Dennis Rickman?), who won plaudits as Farquaad himself in the *West End*, is the director and keeps the action ticking over nicely.

Meanwhile musical director Dave Rose is obviously an accomplished vocal arranger, as harmonies were brilliantly executed and many of the characters proved their worth, bringing singing power to blow the audience away, in particular Christina Modestou with her soulful voice for

Dragon. Mention must be made too on the staging, with swift scenery changes and amazing sets.

The supporting cast had to work hard taking on multiple roles and at no point did I find myself thinking we'd seen any of the faces in other guises. There must have been some super-rapid changes, including three people dressed in black bringing to life Dragon, as a huge puppet, which was remarkably close in appearance to the Dreamworks' movie original.

It's an old cliché – something for everyone – but on this occasion, one that fits the bill. And with performances running until Sunday, there is still a chance for fans to get their fill of fairytales, magic and laughter.

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Peace, Man

Wolverhampton gig preview
– See Page 25



Meera Syal

Interview – Page 25

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Annie



Tues - October 31 Hippodrome, B'ham Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood takes on the role of tyrannical Miss Hannigan. On Saturday's Miss Hannigan will be played by Lesley Joseph. Visit www.birminghamhippodrome.com.

One Direction



Sat, Sun, Mon Barclaycard Arena, B'ham The world's biggest pop act return with three nights of shows in Birmingham. Fans will see the band perform songs from their brand new album FOUR for the first time. Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Gengahr



Monday, 7pm Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath With airplay ranging from Radio 1 to Made In Chelsea, Gengahr are attracting listeners with their distinctive style of indie romantic pop as heard on debut album A Dream Outside. www.hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Ben Fogle



Monday, 7.30pm Town Hall, B'ham In Call Of The Wild, Ben will recount how the self-confessed urbanite became drawn to, and so enamoured with, adventure, travel and the harsh challenges of a life in the wilderness. Visit www.thsh.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Upbeat Beatles Wed at 7.30pm £17 - £18.50 Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Before The Dawn: Kate Bush Tribute Sun at 12am, Free The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Dusky Fri - Sat at 10pm - 5am, £12.50 - £15 The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

T'Pau Fri at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £19.50 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Gengahr Mon at 7pm, £8 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Joanne Shaw Taylor Mon at 8pm, Tue at 8pm, £20 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Josef Salvat Mon at 7pm, £9 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

One Direction Sat at 6pm, Sun at 6pm, Mon at 6pm, £40.20 - £65.70 Barclaycard Arena, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4121

The Carpet Crawlers Thu at 7.30pm, £18 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Raintown Sun at 7pm, £12 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Tankus The Henge Tue at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £6 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Leftfield Fri at 6.30pm, £29 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Rae Morris Sun at 7pm, £13 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Miguel Thu at 7pm, £26.50 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Spector Wed at 7pm, £12.50 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

The Modfathers: Paul Weller Tribute Fri at 7.30pm, £8 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Enchant Mon at 7.45pm, £15 - £16 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Years & Years Fri at 6pm, £17.50 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Martin Turner Wed at 7.30pm, £13.50 - £15 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Into The Shadows: Shadows Tribute Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £15 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Dr Hook - CANCELLED Sat at 7.30pm, £27.50 - £29.50 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Pat McManus Band Tue at 9.10pm, £10 - £12 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Karnataka: Secrets Of Angels Tour 2015 Sun at 8.45pm, £15 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Esther Thu at 12am, Free Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Cause To Effect Sat at 7pm, £6 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Mouth And Music 45 Tue at 7.30pm, £10, £3 The Boars Head Kidderminster, DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

Lunar Festival: Du Blonde Mon at 8pm - 11.30pm, £10 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Go West, Nik Kershaw, T'Pau Thu at 7.30pm, £15 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Peace Sat at 7pm, £15 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Chris While And Julie Matthews Sun at 7.30pm, £13 - £16 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Port Isaac's Fisherman's Friends Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, £22.50 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Jonathan Byrd Sat at 8pm, £8 - £10 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

SOUL AND JAZZ

Willy Porter+ Support Nibs Van Der Spuy Mon at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £10 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA. Call 0121 443 4725

Mood Indigo Thu at 10pm, £5 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Roz Harding Wave Fri at 5pm, Free Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Seckou Keita Sat at 8pm, £13 - £14 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Ex Cathedra: The Grand Tour Sun at 4pm - 6pm, £9.50 - £40 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 Dvorak's Sixth Wed at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Macbeth: Blood Will Have Blood Mon at 1pm, Tue at 10am, 1pm, £8 - £10 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Only Fools And Boycie Thu at 7.30pm, £15 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Of Mice And Men Tue at 10am, 1pm, Wed at 10am, 7.15pm, Thu at 1pm, 7.15pm, £7 - £12. Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Kin/ Theme And Variations/Enigma Variations Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £5 - £85.50 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Tea With Oscar Wilde Thu at 7pm - 9pm, £12.50 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, WV6 8EE. Call 01902 760100

Mister Maker & The Shapes Live UK Tour Fri at 4pm - 5.30pm, Sat at 10am - 11.30am, 1pm - 2.30pm, 4pm - 5.30pm, £15.50 - £17.39 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Ceri Dupree Tue at 7.30pm, £14 - £16 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Full Monty Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £19 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Anita And Me Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £7 - £30 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, SB1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Vienna Festival Ballet: Coppelia Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £11 - £64 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

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Sweeney Todd Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £14.50 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Picture Of Dorian Gray Mon at 7.30pm, £13 - £15 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Russian State Ballet And Opera House: La Traviata Fri at 7.30pm, £32 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Shrek The Musical Fri, Sat at 4pm, 7.15pm Sun at 11am, 4pm, £16.50 - £44.50 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Metamorphosis Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, 7.45pm, £6 - £11 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Annie Tue at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, Wed - Thu at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, Thu at 2pm - 4.30pm, 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £20 - £42.50 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Joe Lycett: That's The Way, A-Ha A-Ha, Joe Lycett Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £12 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Chris Ramsey: All Growned Up Sun at 8pm, £17.50 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Nina Conti: In Your Face - SOLD OUT Fri at 7.30pm, £20.35 Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business Fri at 8pm, 8pm, £25 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Dapper Laughs Tue at 7.30pm, £15 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Frankie Boyle: Hurt Like You've Never Been Loved Sat at 8pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Matt Forde: Get The Political Party Started Thu at 8pm - 11pm, £10 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Sean Hughes: Mumbo Jumbo Mon at 7.30pm, £15.50 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

TALKS

Tom Jones Fri at 8pm, £35 - £50 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

David Starkey: Magna Carta And Us: Talk Sat at 7.30pm, £15.50 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Ben Fogle - Call Of The Wild Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, £22 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Ministry Of Science Live Thu at 1pm, 7pm, £10 - £14.50 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Peace ready to make Civic happy

PEACE will give fans one last chance to see them on their Happy People tour before re-treating to the country.

The band from Worcestershire will line up at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on Saturday. And then, they'll disappear for six months.

Frontman Harry Koisser says: "We're moving to a house in the middle of the countryside together and we're working on the new album immediately after the tour. So for the next six months we'll be working on the album."

"To be fair it's already all written we just need to record it. We want to rehearse it. Sometimes it takes a band five years to write a record and I'm just 'what are you doing?' It'll take me a week and a half to write a record."

Peace have had an incredible summer, playing Glastonbury for the second time as well as sets at Reading and Leeds.

"It's been fun. We started in Australia in March and it just seems like the longest summer and to be honest I just want winter."

The band have got celebrity followers with ex-England footballer Peter Crouch appearing in a video.

"Peter Crouch and Abby Clancy are big fans, which is really cool. I met Noel Gallagher in Scotland at T in the Park. We were introduced by someone and he was like 'Noel this is Harry' and he looked at me was like 'are you in a band or something?' and I said 'yeah I'm in a band called Peace' and he was like 'AHHHH! PEACE!' And he said 'Craig Silvey



Peace with Harry Koisser, centre front, are about to work on their third album

(producer of Peace's Happy People and Noel Gallagher's Chasing Yesterday) played me your album and it was amazing'. Noely G had just given me a compliment."

Harry can't wait to play Wolverhampton. "Wolverhampton Civic is a big deal to be honest. This is the

last tour we're going to be doing for what's going to feel a really long time. We love Wolverhampton, with exception of two members of the entire touring party (including support bands Yak and Splashh), everyone's from the West Midlands. It's going to be a big celebration."



Mandeep Dhillon (Meena) and Jalleh Alizadeh (Anita) rehearse for Anita And Me

Tale of Anita and Meera too

WHEN the world premiere of Meera Syal's much-loved Anita and Me is unveiled at Birmingham REP tomorrow night (Friday), it will feature the most unusual star.

The leading light won't be an actor, actress or, indeed, the writer Meera Syal. An impressive cast including Jalleh Alizadeh, Mandeep Dhillon, Ameet Chana and Ayesha Dharker won't take centre state. Instead the star will be Wolverhampton, the grand old city where Meera was born and raised.

The multi-award-winning Syal wrote her poignant coming-of-age tale about Meena, the irreverent teenage daughter of the only Punjabi family in the mining village of Tollington.

Syal is delighted to be bringing her life in Wolverhampton to the stage. "Well I was born in New Cross Hospital, so it is indeed my birth town, right there on my passport.

Pinnacle

"I then lived in Willenhall briefly before we moved to Essington when I was a year old, so my childhood was spent in the countryside.

"However we did go to Wolverhampton for all our big shopping trips and the pinnacle of every visit was the Mander Centre."

Syal is best-known for TV creations on hits like Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at No 42. She wrote Anita and Me in 1997 and it was made into a film in 2002.

She can't wait for the curtain to go up on the theatrical version, at Birmingham REP until October 24.

"The Rep is of course the perfect place for this very Midland story and Tanika Gupta, who has adapted the book is not only a brilliant playwright but also a very dear friend, so it couldn't be in better hands."

It's strictly drag for Craig's musical role

LIFE'S become a bit of a drag for Simply Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood, who is putting on the panto to play Miss Hannigan in the revival of the Tomorrow Musical Annie at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The choreographer and director returns to the stage for a role he shares with Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph when Strictly duties intervene on a Saturday.

The musical will be at the Hippodrome from October 13 to 31 — see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000 — and returns to the West Midlands in April at Wolverhampton Grand with Lesley Joseph dishing out the Hard Knock Life.

Double date with 1980s hitmakers

POWER ballad 80s stars T'Pau have two local gigs. The China In Your Hand outfit fronted by Carol Decker are at Robin 2 Bilston tomorrow (Fri), and are guests of Go West and Nik Kershaw at Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Key gigs include Treetop Flyers at the Sunflower Lounge in central Brum tonight (Thu), the same night Metric unveil album Pagans In Vegas at The Institute. Check out Rae Morris on Sunday and soul singer KWABS on Monday at The Institute. Gengahr are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday, when Du Blonde and Goodbye Lenin play the other room.

The eyes have it for a Grand favourite

THE Grand's favourite pantomime dame, Ceri Dupree, returns with a tribute to the divas in EYEcons, the female impersonator's new show on Tuesday at the Wolverhampton Theatre.

The Upeat Beatles revive memories of the Fab Four at the Lichfield Street venue on Wednesday and Ministry of Science Live bring explosive experiments for matinee and evening shows on Thursday.

The week of one-nighters is rounded off by Britain's Got Talent opera star Paul Potts in concert on October 16 and a saucy Evening of Burlesque on October 17. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

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A real hot shot – the Vhujon in Bewdley



The shared starter comes with three Indian snacks



The Murgh Chettinad was sweet and spicy with a rich and hot sauce

This restaurant is real hot stuff

PUBS, hairdressers and curry houses have dominated the small town centre of Bewdley over the years.

At one point you were spoilt for choice if you wanted to go for a swift pint, cut and blow dry or a spicy dinner.

But as time has passed and the recession has taken hold, some businesses have struggled to stay afloat and have fallen by the wayside.

It seems residents have tightened their belts and the Indian restaurants have taken a hit. At one point there were four restaurants within a 100-metre stretch, and a balti.

The old favourite that has stood the test of time is still going strong. The cheap and cheerful one, which I've never gone to. The modern-trying-to-be-posh option which has recently shut up shop, as has the bring your own booze balti. But then there's the Vhujon, a contemporary Indian with a stylish interior and a mix of traditional and more unusual dishes.

It's still there, still popular and is always

By Lisa Williams

busy enough to need to book a table on a Friday or Saturday night. It has a lively buzz with a chatty atmosphere in an intimate setting. Its contemporary furnishings make it look clean and fresh, although it could probably do with a bit of attention if they decide to give it a revamp.

We didn't book. We didn't think it would be packed. But for a Wednesday evening there was a surprisingly steady flow of diners which made the atmosphere nice. Relaxed but vibrant.

Wine was ordered as we contemplated menu. There was a lot to take in – starters, chicken, lamb, beef, seafood and biryani dishes along with tandoori specialities, vegetarian, balti and traditional. There are also veggie accompaniments, rice, naans and other sundries.

Of course we ordered poppadoms, a necessity. They were lovely. Crispy, crunchy discs with a slight oiliness. The condiments were yummy too. As we were devouring them our starter to share arrived – Sabzi

Labra, a trio of Indian snacks a samosa, onion bhajee and mushroom pakora, all of which were tasty. Each had a good amount of filling and was nicely seasoned. The pakora batter was a bright, eye-watering, neon orange and could have done with a bit more mushroom stuffed inside its glowing coat.

Once these were done and dusted our mains were next. Feeling brave I'd gone for the Murgh Chettinad, described as hot and spicy chicken cooked with a mix of onion, crushed red chillies and cranberries.

Fiery

It was hot but not take-off-a-layer-of-skin-from-the-roof-of-your-mouth kind of blazing. It had an almost sweet and sour flavour with the plump, rich cranberries giving a sharp taste to the chicken and the fiery chilli adding the taste explosion. To counteract the fierce heat I'd gone for a rather plain but very fluffy and perfectly cooked boiled rice along with a wholesome chapati to mop up the sauce.

My friend had gone for a classic chicken Madras with mushroom pilau rice. The Madras, she said, was nice and spicy but not

at all greasy. We'd also decided on a tarka dhal as a side which tasted absolutely divine, a nice smooth texture with a wholesome lentil flavour and some seasoning we couldn't quite put our fingers on. It complemented the curry and was aromatic without being too overpowering. The mushroom pilau was also a hit.

Neither of us went for the customary naan bread as they seemed too heavy and filling with all the food we had to get through.

There was no room for dessert, though they did have quite a vast selection mainly of pre-made ice cream pots along with a couple of more traditional options.

The staff were friendly and attentive without being intrusive, kept the table cleared and made sure we had everything we needed. It's a very efficient and well-oiled machine with fantastic food.

The bill came with After Eight mints, very 70s but welcome to take away the heat, along with a little pot of minuscule liquorice torpedoes, pretty reasonable at just shy of £45. We decided this is one restaurant that certainly curries favour.



The classy interior of the Vhujon

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CHOICE



Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.25pm)

The concluding edition of a two-part tale – told in reverse – takes the Time Lord to a remote Army outpost, where a fearsome alien warlord known as The Fisher King sets in motion a devious plan to ensure his own survival. As his plot takes effect, the ripples of his actions are felt across the universe in what seems to be an unstoppable chain of cause and reaction. With the consequences spiraling out of control, the Doctor seeks to bring the devastation to an end – but doing so might mean he has to do the unthinkable. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman, with guests Paul Kaye and Peter Serafinowicz.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from Sochi Autodrom (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.25** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.25** The Great British Bake Off Class of 2014. (R) **4.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Pointless Celebrities.

6.20 **Strictly Come Dancing.** Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcy Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkelman chats to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who will no doubt be kicking off the show off with a spirited effort.

8.25 **Doctor Who.** The concluding edition of a two-part tale – told in reverse – takes the Time Lord to a remote Army outpost, where a fearsome alien warlord known as The Fisher King sets in motion a devious plan to ensure his own survival. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman, with guests Paul Kaye and Peter Serafinowicz.

9.10 **Casualty.** Cal finds himself back on an even keel, but it remains to be seen whether things will improve for him from here.

10.00 **The National Lottery Live.** The all-important winning numbers, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, are revealed by Gabby Roslin.

10.10 **BBC News.** Weather.

10.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** A hypnotist provides the entertainment at the triplets' baptism – and Agnes soon finds herself under his spell. (R)

11.00 **Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.** (2011) Captain Jack Sparrow's search for the fountain of youth leads to a battle with the dreaded pirate Blackbeard. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp; National Lottery Update.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Practice One Replay. (R) **8.15** Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Practice Two Replay. (R) **9.55** Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.05** The Women's Football Show. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.30** Formula 1 Rewind. **3.30** Coast. (R) **4.00** World's Weirdest Events. (R) **5.00** Flo! It! (R)

6.00 **The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure.** Si King and Dave Myers take DNA tests to find out if they have any Viking ancestry, before heading for Stockholm and taking a ferry to the island of Gotland. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don tackles seasonal jobs at Longmeadow, while in the third of her films about how plants work, Carol Klein investigates the science of stems. (R)

7.30 **Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise.** Life in the treacherous seas that surround the 4,000-mile coast of the South American wilderness, including rockhopper penguins, seals and orcas. Last in the series. (R)

8.30 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit to the platoon. Vintage comedy, starring John Le Mesurier. (R)

9.00 **Ted Hughes: Stronger Than Death.** Documentary examining how the poet's life shaped his work, including an interview with his daughter Frieda, as well as testimony from family members, friends and fellow writers.

10.30 **Q.** Sarah Millican, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of keeps. (R)

11.00 **Cradle to Grave.** Danny finds himself at a crossroads with the fabulous Miss Blondel – or as he is now allowed to call her, Louise – and Fred demonstrates his keen sense of hearing with money. (R)

11.30 **Boy Meets Girl.** As the party preparations get under way, Pam learns the truth about Judy, while Leo has a special question to ask her. But things do not turn out as he expected. Last in the series. (R)

12.00 **Film: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.** (1997) **2.25** **Film: Lady Caroline Lamb.** (1972) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Adventure Time. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble.

8.15 Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Countrywise. (R) **10.45** ITV News: Weather. **10.55** The X Factor. (R) **12.55** Downton Abbey. (R) **2.00** Rugby World Cup. Scotland v Samoa (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Rugby World Cup. Australia v Wales (Kick-off 4.45pm).

6.55 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

7.15 **Rugby World Cup.** England v Uruguay (Kick-off 8.00pm). John Inverdale presents coverage of the final match in Pool A, which takes place at Manchester City Stadium. There has only been one previous meeting between these nations prior to this clash, which took place at the 2003 World Cup in Australia. That fixture was an incredibly one-sided affair, as England recorded an emphatic 111-13 triumph in what was also their concluding pool-stage match of that tournament. Anything other than an English win tonight will be seen as a huge surprise, and Stuart Lancaster will hope the expected victory proves to be as good an omen for the current side, given that the 2003 squad went on to lift the Webb Ellis Cup. With analysis from Jonny Wilkinson, Clive Woodward and Lawrence Dallaglio, and commentary by Nick Mullins and Ben Kay.

10.15 **Through the Keyhole.** Dave Berry, Michael Buerk and Ashley Roberts try to guess which mystery celebrities have invited Keith Lemon to poke through their personal belongings. Last in the series.

11.15 **ITV News:** Weather.

11.35 **Rugby World Cup Highlights.** Action from Scotland v Samoa, Australia v Wales and England v Uruguay, which took place at St James' Park, Twickenham and Manchester City Stadium respectively.

12.50 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket and York.

4.10 Channel 4 News. **4.35** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help prospective buyers in Cardiff, including Jo and Steve, who are relocating from Bristol to cut down on Jo's commute to work. (R)

7.00 **Celebrity Benchmark.** Vic Reeves and Jimmy Carr battle it out for the contestant's chair as Paddy McGuinness hosts another star-studded round of the game show. This week, the Benchmarkers are: Jojo Essex, Chris Ramsey, Lesley Joseph, John Thomson, Mark Byrne, Amanda Burton, Stevi Ritchie, and the star who wins the opening duel must assess how well the celebrity panel answered to a series of tricky numerical questions if they hope to win £50,000 for their chosen charity.

8.00 **Britain's Best Loved Sitcoms.** Part two of two. The countdown of the UK's favourite comedies concludes and the nation's favourite sitcom is revealed. Tamsin Greig narrates.

9.00 **At Home with Steph and Dom.** Chat show with the much-loved couple from Gogglebox, as they host a series of celebrity comedies and the nation's favourite sitcom is revealed. Tamsin Greig narrates.

10.05 **Film: Tower Heist.** (2011) The manager of an apartment complex recruits a thief to steal back his friends' pension fund from a Wall Street fraudster. Crime comedy, starring Ben Stiller.

12.10 Sex Diaries: Gigolos. (R) **1.10** Josh Widdicombe: And Another Thing. (R) **2.05** Alan Carr: Chatty Man: SU2C Special. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.30** Film: Columbus: Grand Deceptions. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.25** Film: Columbus: Ashes to Ashes. (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGeehan. **5.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.10 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy get into a doorstep confrontation with a debtor who wants to prove her family business is bankrupt. However, when tempers flare Brian is assaulted and the agents call the police. Elsewhere, Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face evicting three properties owned by the same landlord in north London, and Brian and Delroy Anglin collect £2,000 debt owed to a vet in Kent. (R)

7.05 **Funnies Fails, Falls & Flops.** Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, including martial arts, dating difficulties, and a wipe-out at the Typhoon Lagoon.

7.35 **Funnies Fails, Falls & Flops.** Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, including a man filling up his pick-up truck with water and schoolboys learning how gravity affects balls.

8.00 **Now That's Funny!** Amusing Internet-sourced videos, including pleasure seekers getting more than they bargained for at an amusement park and people who make fooling about at work an art form.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Football League Tonight.** George Riley presents extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from League One and League Two, including Sheffield United v Rochdale, Walsall v Burton Albion, Cambridge United v Portsmouth and Oxford United v AFC Wimbledon. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. Former Sunderland left-back Michael Gray provides analysis in the studio.

10.00 **Most Shocking Talent Show Moments.** Countdown of 50 of the most memorable moments from TV talent shows. (R)

12.50 The Gadget Show. (R) **1.40** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Body Donors. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. **8.05** Don't Tell the Bride. **9.05** Russell Howard's Good News. **9.35** Film: Tropic Thunder (2008) **11.15** Family Guy. **1.25** Together. **1.55** Asian Provocateur. **2.25** Russell Howard's Good News. **2.55** Don't Tell the Bride. **3.55** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth. **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Three Men Go to Scotland. **8.00** Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army. **9.00** Beck: The Hospital Murders. **10.25** Spike Milligan: Love, Light and Peace. **11.55** Top of the Pops. **1980** **12.30** Music for Misfits: The Story of Indie. **1.30** Indie Classics at the BBC. **2.30** Tales from the Tour Bus: Rock 'n' Roll on the Road. **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.00 The Cube. **12.05** Tricked. **1.05** The Hot Desk: Alastair Dixon. **1.20** The X Factor. **3.20** The Xtra Factor. **4.20** Catchphrase. **5.20** Film: Beethoven (1992) **7.05** Film: She's the Man (2006) **9.10** Film: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) **11.15** Celebrity Juice. **12.05** The Almost Impossible Gameshow. **1.05** Release the Hounds. **1.55** Tricked. **2.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.15 Inspector Morse. **2.30** Film: Emma (1996) **4.55** Lewis. **6.55** Doc Martin. **8.00** Midsomer Murders. **10.00** Lewis. **12.05** Alastair's Marple. **2.05** ITVS Nightscreen. **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.40 Film: Battle of the Bulge (1965) **3.00** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **5.45** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **7.30** Storage Wars: New York. **8.00** Storage Wars. **9.00** Storage Wars: New York. **9.25** River Monsters. **10.30** Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights. **12.00** Film: The Big Lebowski (1998) **2.20** Nitro Circus. **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.00 Film: Planet 51 (2009) **2.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **3.00** The Big Bang Theory. **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **5.05** Film: Marley and Me (2008) **7.30** The Big Bang Theory. **Top 5 Howard** **10.00** Gogglebox. **11.40** Tattoo Fixers. **12.40** The Inbetweeners. **1.50** The IT Crowd. **2.45** How I Met Your Mother. **3.30** The New Normal. **3.55** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **11.00** Mysterious Island (1961) **1.00** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **3.35** Iron Man (2008) **6.05** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) **10.50** Crimson Peak – Exclusive Preview. **10.55** Hellboy (2004)



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CHOICE



Claire Danes

Homeland (Channel 4, 9pm)
One of the most talked about American dramas of recent years is back for a new run, and life seems a little easier for Homeland's bipolar heroine Carrie Mathison (Claire Danes). When we first met her in 2012, she was trying to ascertain whether Nicholas Brody, the US soldier and PoW, had been turned by al-Qaeda and was planning an atrocity on American soil. When we catch up with her, it's two years since the on/off CIA officer's tenure as Islamabad station chief. Series five sees her in Berlin, estranged from the CIA and employed as a German philanthropist's head of security. In episode one, Carrie's peace is threatened when a request from her boss forces her back towards the dangerous world she left behind.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix. **2.15** Sunday Politics. **3.20** The Great British Bake Off: The Final. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Points of View. **5.05** Lifetime. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News.
6.10 **Regional Programme.**
6.15 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker joins wildlife photographer Gary Lomas in recording the annual red deer rut in Cheshire's Lyme Park, and meets a TV actor who gave up showbusiness to become a National Trust Ranger. Helen Skelton goes looking for rare bats and visits a family who make bespoke gin. Tom Heap investigates mental health issues in the farming community. James Wong makes quince jelly and Adam Henson reveals what makes Dartmoor sheep and ponies special. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit the Royal William Yard in Plymouth, where they cast their eyes over Lord Nelson's doorknobs, and a diamond necklace the length of a skipping rope.
9.00 **From Darkness.** Another body is discovered, which seems to have been left as a message for Claire. Norrie feels he and Claire are being dragged apart, as personal and professional issues collide.
10.00 **BBC News.**
10.20 **Regional Programme.**
10.30 **Sir Alex Ferguson: Secrets of Success.** Former BBC Political Editor Nick Robinson interviews the retired Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who shares his perspectives on motivation, discipline and leadership.
11.30 **Rooney: The Man Behind the Goals.** Gary Lineker presents a profile of England's all-time leading scorer, talking to the Manchester United striker, his family and a host of people from the world of football. (R)
12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** Film: How the West Was Won. (1962) **3.30** Flog It! Trade Secrets. (R) **4.00** The Railway: Keeping Britain on Track. (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Grand Final Highlights.
6.00 **Don't Panic – How to End Poverty in 15 Years.** Professor Hans Rosling explores the target of eradicating worldwide poverty by looking at dramatic human stories, as well as examining data on recent global progress. (R)
7.00 **Licence to Thrill – Paul Hollywood Meets Aston Martin.** The Great British Bake Off's Paul Hollywood indulges his passion for Aston Martin cars, test-driving various models, and making an attempt to join one of Aston's racing teams. (R)
8.00 **Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish.** New series. Ben Fogle presents a fishing challenge in which anglers test their skill in the world's most inhospitable areas. The contestants fish the freezing waters of Iceland.
9.00 **RAF's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the Brief.** New series. Documentary following the Red Arrows, the RAF's aerobatics display team through a summer display season, including an ambitious performance over Buckingham Palace.
10.00 **Family Guy.** Brian goes to obedience classes.
10.25 **Family Guy.** Meg becomes infatuated with a popular boy at school.
10.45 **Family Guy.** Peter tells the story of Christmas – with a twist.
11.05 **Top Coppers.** Mahogany meets one of his childhood heroes when the star of a hit sci-fi show receives death threats, and Rust decides to chase fame and fortune by becoming an actor. Previously seen on BBC Three.
11.35 **Film: Chances Are.** (1989) A man reincarnated without memories of the past starts to recall his former life when he unwittingly meets his daughter. Romantic comedy, with Cybill Shepherd.
1.20 Sign Zone. **Countryfile.** (R) **2.20** Holy City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Rugby World Cup. Argentina v Namibia (Kick-off 12.00pm). **2.10** Rugby World Cup. Italy v Romania (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.20** Rugby World Cup. France v Ireland (Kick-off 4.45pm).
6.55 **Regional Programme; Weather.**
7.00 **The X Factor.** Oily Murs and Caroline Flack present the climax of the Six Chair Challenge. Judges Rita Ora, Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Nick Grimshaw must each select six acts to take a place in the live shows. However, contestants who put in an impressive performance are not out of the woods, as the judges have the freedom to change their minds at any point in the show.
9.00 **Downton Abbey.** Tom and Sybbie return to Downton, but the peace is disrupted by an unexpected visit from an old friend. Baxter is faced with a dilemma after an encounter with Sergeant Willis, while Thomas struggles to fill Carson's shoes. Anna goes to London with Mary to deal with a crisis, while her secrets seem likely to be exposed. Daisy is not happy with Cora, and Mary has an admirer.
10.00 **ITV News; Weather.**
10.15 **Rugby World Cup Highlights.** Martin Bayfield presents action from the final four pool-stage matches, which were France v Ireland, Argentina v Namibia, Italy v Romania and USA v Japan.
11.15 **Perspectives: In Charlie Chaplin's Footsteps.** Monty Python star Terry Jones, a long-time fan of silent comedy, offers a personal appraisal of the man who arguably changed the face of film comedy in the 1920s. (R)
12.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.15** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.45** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Film: Stop-Up 3. (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **2.35** Film: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **4.40** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.40** Homes by the Sea. (R)
6.35 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Film: Men in Black 3.** (2012) An alien criminal escapes from a prison on the moon and goes back in time on a mission of revenge, changing the course of history. Agent J, of the top-secret Earth defence organisation follows him back to 1969, and joins forces with a younger version of his mentor Agent K to set things right. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith, Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language and violence.
9.00 **Homeland.** New series. Having left the CIA, Carrie tries to get on with her new life in Berlin but realises she is now the one who is a target and no longer has Saul and Quinn to rely on. Thriller, starring Claire Danes.
10.00 **Experimental.** Tim Shaw builds a giant catapult to fire Buddy out of and a propelled swivel chair. The duo also head to Georgia to carry out a dangerous stunt testing the science of acceleration.
11.05 **Film: Predators.** (2010) Hardened fighters from across the globe are taken to an alien jungle planet to become prey in a big-game hunt. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrian Brody and Topher Grace.
1.00 **Film: Animal Kingdom.** (2010) An orphaned teenager is adopted into his grandmother's criminal family, and must decide where his loyalties lie. Crime thriller, with James Frecheville and Guy Pearce. **2.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Fifteen to One. Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R) **5.25** 1001 Things You Should Know. Journalist and presenter Jon Snow and interior designer Celia Sawyer are among the experts challenging three more contestants. Presented by Sandi Toksvig. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. Barney seduces Marshall's professor. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.00** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jam. (R) **8.50** LazyTown. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.20** Access. **10.25** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.25** Film: Hoodwinked. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Anne Hathaway. **12.55** Film: Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure. (2009) Animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **2.30** Film: Tuck Everlasting. (2002) Disney fantasy, with Alexis Bledel. **4.10** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement. (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway.
6.20 **5 News Weekend.**
6.25 **Film: The Count of Monte Cristo.** (2002) A sailor falls foul of the schemes of his so-called closest friend, and ends up languishing in prison for 13 years, wrongly accused of treason. After spending his sentence plotting revenge on the traitor, he eventually manages to escape and poses as a wealthy nobleman to gain access to his target. Swashbuckling adventure based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas, starring Jim Caviezel, Guy Pearce, Richard Harris and Dagny Donniczyk.
9.00 **Film: Parker.** (2013) Premiere. A thief is betrayed and left for dead by his partners in crime. He learns they are planning a diamond heist in a wealthy neighbourhood, so poses as a millionaire wanting to buy a house in the area. A real-estate agent sees through the disguise and helps him get even by stealing the gems from his traitorous gang. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez. Edited for language.
11.25 **Film: Lacey Cake.** (2004) A cocaine dealer planning to go straight is sent to find a mobster's drug-addicted daughter and a stolen shipment of Ecstasy. Crime thriller, with Daniel Craig and Michael Gambon.
1.25 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Super Skyscrapers: Building London's Cheesegrater. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1 – Russian Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Film: Scream (1996) **11.45** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **12.50** Family Guy **1.10** Together **1.40** Asian Provocateur **2.10** KK: The Fight for White Supremacy **3.10** Russell Howard's Good News **3.40** Dead Air **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 The Search for Life: The Drake Equation **8.00** Simon Armitage in Conversation with Tony Harrison **9.00** Return to Larkland **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster **11.15** Twin Sisters: A World Apart **12.15** Film: Storyville: Buck – The Real Horse Whisperer (2011) **1.40** Simon Armitage in Conversation with Tony Harrison **2.40** Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster **3.25** Close
ITV2
11.45 The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.45** Catchphrase **1.30** The Very Best of You've Been Framed! **2.35** Film: Stormbreaker (2006) **4.25** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.15** Film: Hulk (2003) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Film: Casino Royale (2006) **12.55** Viral Tap **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.00** Keshia: The Hot Desk **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.25 Lewis **2.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.25** Film: The Prince and the Showgirl (1957) **6.50** Foye's War **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.30** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35** Film: Death Becomes Her (1992) **1.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
6.30 British Superbike Championship Highlights **7.30** Rugby World Cup. USA v Japan (Kick-off 8.00pm). **10.20** Film: Invictus (2009) **1.00** Film: The Dead Pool (1988) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
2.20 Ride (ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.20** The Inbetweeners **12.30** The IT Crowd **1.35** Rude Tube **2.35** Rules of Engagement **3.20** 2 Broke Girls
Film4
11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Anastasia (1997) **2.55** Pride and Prejudice (2005) **5.25** Evolution (2001) **7.25** The Animal (2001) **9.00** Apocalypse (2006) **11.40** Joy Ride (2001) **1.40** Dogtooth (2009) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Good Witch's Gift, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Cassandra Nightingale's fiancé proposes and they decide to get married at Christmas – leaving very little time to prepare for the big day. However, their marriage is threatened when a face from the groom's past arrives in town. Family drama sequel, starring Catherine Bell, Chris Potter and Laura Bertram. (2010)

TUESDAY
Good Witch, Bad Witch, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Cassandra Nightingale runs for mayor and considers starting a family, while also receiving a visit from her estranged niece. While seemingly helpful and friendly, the newfound relative is secretly jealous of Cassandra's perfect life and seeks to turn her friends against her. Fourth in the drama series, starring Catherine Bell and Matthew Knight. (2011)

WEDNESDAY
Client Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A lawyer who has made her career defending wealthy clients decides to perform an act of charity by representing a homeless man accused of murder. However, as the case gets under way, she realises the defendant is guilty, and that he is seducing her daughter as part of a plot to avoid justice. Thriller, starring Ally Sheedy and Rhys Ward. (2014)



The Disappearance of Alice Creed, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

THURSDAY
Tombstone, Channel 5, 10pm
Renowned marshal Wyatt Earp becomes a professional gambler in the town of Tombstone, but is forced out of his retirement to take on a gang of hellraising villains no one else is prepared to stand up to. Joining forces with his brothers and drunken gunslinger Doc Holliday, he gets ready to face them in a showdown at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer and Bill Paxton. (1993)

FRIDAY
The Disappearance of Alice Creed, BBC1, 11.50pm
Two criminals kidnap the daughter of a wealthy family, with the intention of demanding a ransom. However, the hostage is not the helpless victim she appears. Thriller, with Gemma Arterton, Eddie Marsan and Martin Compston. (2009)

River banks on success in his latest murder case

Given the BBC's passion for Euro thrillers such as Spiral, The Killing and Wallander, it was inevitable that we'd see more dramas mixed the best talent from here and there.

And when it comes to A-list Scandinavian talent, you don't get much better than Stellan Skarsgård.

Okay, some of his dad dancing in Mamma Mia may have been questionable, but his string of credits, from Good Will Hunting and the US version of Girl With The Dragon Tattoo have helped make him one of Hollywood's go-to guys when searching for Swedish talent.

Here he plays John River, a brilliant but troubled police officer, while Nicola Walker almost steals the show as his late colleague, Detective Sergeant Jackie 'Stevie' Stevenson, a lover of cheesy music and fast food.

When a murder suspect jumps to his death while being pursued by River, the pressure and scrutiny that surrounds him escalates fast.

As the investigation into Stevie's murder begins to reveal her deepest

secrets, our hero has to question everything he thought he knew about his friend.

Stellan admits it's not the easiest of dramas to sum up.

"If it was a normal TV series it would be rather easy to tell you about it but it's not and that's why I'm in it," he explains. "You could say it's a crime story on the surface, but it's really more about a person's breakdown or his psychological status."

All brilliant TV detectives need a gimmick, whether it's Fitz's gambling or Ironside's wheelchair, and John River's selling point is his fractured mental state.

"We've heard a lot about people that hear voices, but he actually sees those people as well that he's talking to, and very often it is victims of crime that pop up and have conversations with him. They're not like ghosts, they're his own creations."

Penned by acclaimed writer Abi Morgan, one of the brains behind Shame, The Iron Lady, and new movie Suffragette, her script was a

key reason the actor signed up.

"I took the job for her writing because it doesn't look like anything else," explains Stellan. "Her writing is not linear. It's more filled with odd impulses."

"It throws you from one thought to another thought in a less organised way, and to me that resembles life much more than a lot of the writing you get which is extremely structured and polished and is by the book of 'How to Write a Screenplay'."

Obviously cast and crew are hoping the series proves a hit, but as four of Skarsgård's recent films grossed more than \$4billion between them, and with more helpings of Thor and Avengers on the way, finding time to make series two might be a little tricky.

However, with a fine supporting cast, including Adeel Akhtar as Detective Sergeant Ira King; Lesley Manville as Chief Inspector Chrissie Read, and Eddie Marsan as a killer who harasses the eponymous crime buster, hopefully this is one River that will run and run.



Stellan Skarsgard stars in River, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Great British Bake Off - Masterclass BBC2, 7pm
If you're one of the millions of viewers who have spent the past few weeks marvelling over The Great British Bake Off, then the likes of Nadiya Jamir Hussain, Tamal Ray and Ian Cumming have become minor yet worthy TV stars. Chances are their skills in the GBBO tent may have inspired you to dig out that dusty cake tin and have a go at your own adventures in the kitchen. Of course, inspiration is one thing, but good, solid guidance doesn't hurt either, and that's where this series comes in handy. 'Proving' they know what they're talking about, no-nonsense judges Paul Hollywood (aka 'the male judge') and Mary Berry take over the tent to demonstrate how the contest's challenges should be done with a series of tutorials.

TUESDAY
Girls to Men Channel 4, 10pm
Channel 4's Born in the Wrong Body strand, which explores the lives of young transgender people in Britain and America, continues. This time, the spotlight falls on the experiences of three young Britons, who have opted to undergo extraordinary surgical procedures to fulfil their dreams of living as

men. Making use of unprecedented access to the operating theatre, the film outlines the surgeons remove breasts and craft functioning penises for their patients. The documentary also explores the confident online community of young trans men, who have started to bare all on social media.

WEDNESDAY
The Apprentice BBC1, 9pm
New series. Alan Sugar begins his 11th search for a new business partner, offering the hopefuls a £250,000 investment in a new start-up company. This year, Claude Littner replaces Nick Hewer as Lord Sugar's new advisor and 'eyes and ears' alongside Karen Brady. As usual, the millionaire gives the candidates his introductory pep talk, after which the entrepreneurs are divided into teams for the first task – selling two fish-based products to hungry Londoners. The pressure to perform is on, and the contestants are reminded of just how unforgiving the process is when they arrive in the boardroom, where the challenge is picked apart and one candidate is fired.



The Apprentice, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces Channel 4, 8pm
Two sheds have got to be better than one, right? Well, not for a couple featured in this week's programme. Their garden has been the home of two air raid shelters for more than 70 years. These structures are showing their age, and now the owners want to turn them into rather swanky sheds – the problem is, they can't agree who will take charge of which. Hopefully George can mediate for them. Also appearing is Guinnie who, at the tender age of 12, is the series' youngest-ever designer. She's getting help from her builder dad to turn a book-based school project into a reality. Meanwhile, master craftsman Will Hardie visits a beach hut worth £1million and continues work on his and George's rather more

modest project: George himself takes another trip to Germany to see how a water tower has been turned into a luxury home.

FRIDAY
TFI Friday Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Chris Evans follows up his one-off edition aired in June, with the first of a brand new series of the lively entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits, proving that the 'farewell-to-all-that' nature of the previous offering was a little premature. Despite ongoing commitments to Radio 2 and now BBC Two's Top Gear, the host has managed to find time to schedule eight new programmes into his diary, and it will be interesting to see whether the unpredictable, wild nature of the former incarnation can be replicated on an ongoing basis.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories ITV, 9pm
Warwick Davis, who stands at 3ft 6, talks to Piers about his life and career, which includes supporting roles in both the Harry Potter and Star Wars films. The actor and presenter opens up about the struggles he and his wife Sam faced when starting a family.



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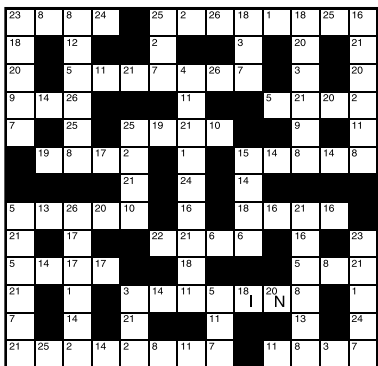
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BRAIN GYM No.346

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

D	G	F	Q	S	H	W	Y	E	O	V	A	L	I	3
K	Z	C	M	X	B	I	N	R	T	J	U	P		

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

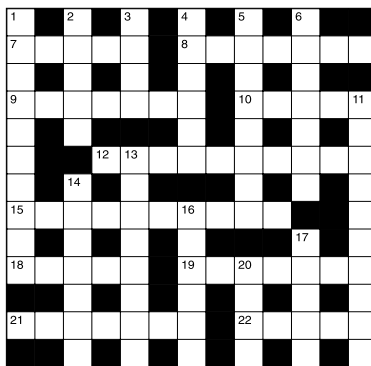
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- To erect or bring to the ground, we hear (5)
- Away from home to view the prospect (7)
- Runner allowed in different heat (7)
- Military body - almost a dead one! (5)
- Thrifty result of revising coal income (10)
- 15 & 18Ac. Do they sell fingers for watches? (6-4,5)
- See 15 Across
- Keeping your head down for immersion (7)
- Business enterprise produces anxiety (7)
- Indicate the policeman's duty (5)

Down

- Radio engagements for extensive groups of actors (10)
- Having drunk too much in need of relaxation? (5)
- By Jove, she'll be found among the bearers! (4)
- Up-to-date style by the Royal Navy (6)
- Cattle drover - or store-keeper? (8)
- It's not wrong to mete out punishment (7)
- What a monopolistic fishmonger has! (4,6)
- Care isn't used when container is upset (8)
- The tale of a nobleman, we hear (7)
- Not revealing chastisement (6)
- I'm twice returning to the capital of China to take off (5)
- Successfully handle clerical vestment (4)



Quick Clues:

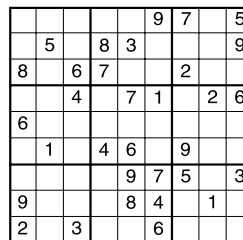
Across

- Compel (5)
- Fatty (7)
- Specimen (7)
- Boundary (5)
- Nonconformity (10)
- Star-gazer (10)
- Spare (5)
- Good health (7)
- Food principle (7)
- Position (5)

Down

- Womanish (10)
- Big (5)
- Aid (4)
- Bets (6)
- Force out (8)
- Note (7)
- Intruder (10)
- Solitary (8)
- Post (7)
- Alfront (6)
- Kingly (5)
- Kind (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	8	3	4	2	1	7	5
7	3	5	9	1	8	2	6	4
1	4	2	6	7	5	9	8	3
3	9	4	5	8	7	6	2	1
8	2	6	1	9	4	3	5	7
5	1	7	2	3	6	4	8	9
4	5	9	8	6	1	7	3	2
6	7	3	4	2	9	5	1	8
2	8	1	7	5	3	9	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Conspires; 8 Ran; 9 Drop of water; 11 Pattern; 12 Rinse; 13 Reform; 15 Serene; 17 Irons; 18 Instead; 20 Night-porter; 22 Odd; 23 Solitaires. Down: 2 Oar; 3 Phineas; 4 Rowing; 5 Set free; 6 Arrangement; 7 In the lead; 10 Out of bounds; 11 Perdition; 14 Reassures; 16 Pistol; 19 Stout; 21 Ear. QUICK - Across: 1 Courtship; 8 Ego; 9 Replacement; 11 Breathe; 12 Error; 13 United; 15 Renown; 17 Draws; 18 Elevate; 20 Earnestness; 22 Sin; 23 Determine. Down: 2 Ode; 3 Tract; 4 Heeded; 5 Precede; 6 Deteriorate; 7 Coherence; 10 Predicament; 11 Boundless; 14 Ensured; 16 Revert; 19 Enter; 21 Son.

Quiz

- In which year did The Independent newspaper launch in the UK?
- Who was Australian P.M. from 1949-66?
- Who was Foreign Secretary in the 1974-6 Wilson government?
- Which composer wrote the ballet Billy The Kid?
- Which dwarf planet was discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh?

- Who was the Roman goddess of the dawn?
- Between which two islands is the Denmark Strait?
- What is the Arabian camel also known as?
- Which Italian modern art movement was initiated by Marinetti?
- Who wrote the novel Washington Square?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 John Adams; 2 Tigris; 3 Konstantin Chernenko; 4 Paul Dukas; 5 A hooped petticoat; 6 William Schwenk; 7 1956; 8 Charles de Gaulle; 9 St. Andrews; 10 A revolving tray for holding condiments. Niner: DISCOVERY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6878 gives a London district,
9194 gives a London gallery,
28536 gives a London sports venue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Formby Way, Walsall

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Part-Furnished
- Popular Turnberry Location
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Master Bedroom En-Suite
- Utility/Downstairs W.C.
- Front & Rear Gardens
- New Carpets
- Repainted Throughout
- DHSS Accepted
- Viewings Highly Recommended

Monthly Rental Of £900



Stamping Way, Walsall

- Detached Four Bedroom Three Storey
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- Three Further Bedrooms

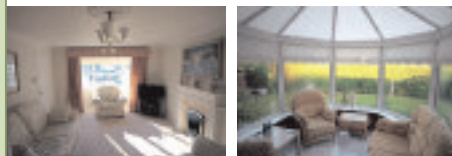
Monthly Rental Of £850



Allerdale Road, Walsall

- Two Bed Semi Detached
- Private Cul - De - Sac Location
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets Or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £575



Formby Way, Walsall

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Part-Furnished
- Popular Turnberry Location
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Master Bedroom En-Suite
- Utility/Downstairs W.C.
- Front & Rear Gardens
- New Carpets
- Repainted Throughout
- DHSS Accepted
- Viewings Highly Recommended

Monthly Rental Of £900



Bridgwater Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Large Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking And Wheelchair Access
- Private Cul De Sac Location
- Bathroom
- Available Early November
- Call Today!
- Viewings Highly Advised

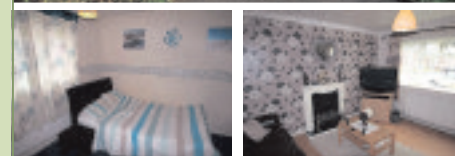
Monthly Rental Of £500



Somerfield Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Well Kept Property
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge
- Kitchen / Diner
- Utility
- Downstairs WC

Monthly Rental Of £550



Rushall, York Road

- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Available ASAP
- Sorry No DHSS
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen Diner
- Call Today!

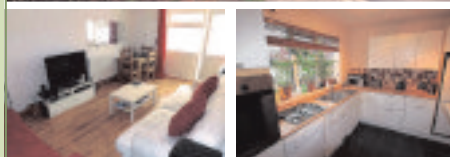
Monthly Rental Of £550



Brindley Close, Beechdale

- End Terrace Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge And Dining Room
- Front And Rear Gardens
- New Carpets
- Repainted Throughout
- DHSS Accepted
- Viewings Highly Recommended

Monthly Rental Of £495



Bridgwater Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Large Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking And Wheelchair Access
- Private Cul De Sac Location
- Bathroom
- Available Early November
- Call Today!
- Viewings Highly Advised

Monthly Rental Of £500



Glastonbury Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced Property
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £495



Pendlebury Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking / Shared Garden
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Viewings Recommended
- Call Today!!

Monthly Rental Of £495



Usk Close, Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Entrance Hall
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

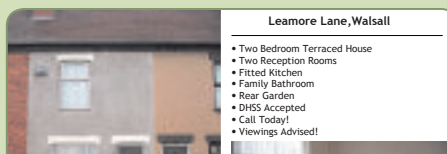
Monthly Rental Of £475



Barrow Close, Walsall Wood

- two bedroom first floor apartment
- Economy 7 Heating
- double glazing
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Allocated and Visitor Parking Spaces
- SORRY NO DHSS

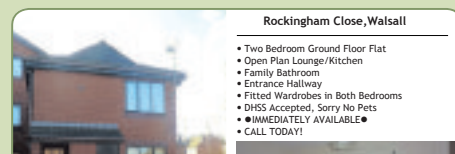
Monthly Rental Of £475



Leamore Lane, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted
- Call Today!
- Viewings Advised!

Monthly Rental Of £425



Rockingham Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Fitted Wardrobes in Both Bedrooms
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets
- IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE
- CALL TODAY!

Monthly Rental Of £425



Lewis Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom with Shower
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425



Usk Close, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Self Contained
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- DHSS Accepted
- Viewings Advised
- Call Today!

Monthly Rental Of £400



Harrison Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Open Plan Kitchen & Lounge
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted
- Blomwich Centre Location
- Call today!

Monthly Rental Of £350



Barracks Lane, Walsall

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- One Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted
- Available ASAP
- Viewings Advised

Monthly Rental Of £300

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LET!

Water Reed Grove, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Fully Furnished House
- Cloakroom / WC
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom & Ensuite Shower Room
- Viewing Essential

Monthly Rental Of £725



LET!

Wood Lane, Willenhall

- New Build Three Bed Townhouse
- Entrance Hall
- Downstairs W.C.
- Lounge with Patio Doors
- Conservatory
- Master Bedroom with En-suite

Monthly Rental Of £695



LET!

Cherry Brook, Cannock

- Modern Family Home
- THREE Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom, Ensuite & Guest Cloaks
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £650



LET!

Hollybank Avenue, Wolverhampton

- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Garage

Monthly Rental Of £610



LET!

Coronation Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Available from 22nd October 2015
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- D. Glazing & C. Heating

Monthly Rental Of £595



LET!

Parkhouse Grove, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Master Ensuite
- Popular Aldridge Location
- Must Be Viewed!
- Sorry No DHSS.
- Viewings Highly Recommended
- No Pets/ Smokers
- Available October!

Monthly Rental Of £575



LET!

Buttermere Grove, Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Popular Coppice Farm Estate
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- New Flooring Throughout

Monthly Rental Of £550



LET!

The Briars, Walsall

- Modern Third Floor Apartment
- Sought After "Briars" Development
- Large Lounge Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms - Master Ensuite Shower Room

Monthly Rental Of £550



LET!

Somerfield Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom with Shower
- Rear Garden with Patio
- Front Garden with Driveway

Monthly Rental Of £525



LET!

Alderley Crescent, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge with French Doors
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

Ryle Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

Trentham Avenue, Willenhall

- Much Improved Two Bedroom House
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

Irvine Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

Waterfront Way, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower & Bath
- Balcony Area
- Allocated Parking Space

Monthly Rental Of £450



LET!

Waterfront Way, Walsall

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Close to all amenities & near canal
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425

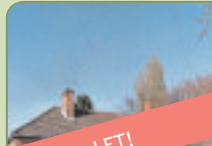


LET!

Harden Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Maisonette
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £400



LET!

Shepherd Drive, Willenhall

- One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette
- Entrance Stairway/Landing
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Shared Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £400



LET!

Harden Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350



LET!

Moxhull Close, Willenhall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Shared Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £325

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Mid terrace town home with appealing features



ON the popular Stroud Avenue estate, this three-bedroom mid-terraced house in Rudge Close, Willenhall has a pleasant outlook to the front.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £105,000. With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall with a ceramic tiled floor, a lounge/diner, a kitchen with an integral washing machine and ceramic tiled floor, a rear hallway with a ceramic tiled floor, three bedrooms with laminate flooring, a fully tiled bathroom with a shower over the bath, a WC and a rear garden with a path, lawn and rear gate.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 or visit the estate agent's website at www.pauldubberley.co.uk



Four-bedroom home situated near reserve

A TRULY impressive three-storey, four-bedroom semi-detached house in a sought after location in Church Lane, West Bromwich is for sale through Bartrams at £299,950. Inside is an entrance hall with ceiling beams, a kitchen with a tiled floor, separate ground floor WC, and lean-to.

There is also a breakfast room/dining room with a tiled floor, and two reception rooms. Upstairs, the landing provides access to a WC, bathroom with part tiled walls and storage.

There are also four bedrooms, two with bay windows and one with wooden flooring. Further stairs lead to a second floor landing where there is loft storage and there is also a basement in the cellar.

Contact Bartrams on 0121 6019370, or log on at www.bartrams.com





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Make move to Eden Valley just in time for Christmas

AN OPEN house weekend hosted by Lovell Homes' Eden Valley development in Walsall is taking place on Saturday, between 10am and 5pm.

The event is aimed at helping potential buyers find out how they can get moving now, and settle in their brand new home in time for Christmas.

The weekend celebrates the opening of Eden Valley's two-bedroom view home, The Keinton. It will also offer information and advice about ways of making your money go further, including the Government-backed Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme. Help to Buy allows home buyers to access a 20 per cent equity loan from the Government, which means they can move into a brand-new property with just a five per cent cash deposit and 75 per cent mortgage.

Choose between two- and three-bedroom homes on this delightful Lovell development, just over a mile from the thriving town centre of Walsall, where a multi-million pound regeneration project is in full swing.

The Keinton, two-bedroom home starts from £124,950 (£99,960 price after Help to Buy Equity Loan) – a price at which there is no stamp duty to pay. What's more, Lovell is also offering exclusively to pay legal fees up to £1,000 pounds for all reservations made during the open house



weekend, subject to terms and conditions. The event will feature an independent financial advisor providing free information and guidance on Saturday, as well as advice from the friendly Lovell sales team.

Lovell field sales manager Michelle Barnsley said: "The open house weekend is a fantastic opportunity for first-time and second-time buyers to see the style, quality and value Lovell upholds, building the foundations for a happy community and affordable lifestyle supported by the Government-backed Help to Buy Equity loan scheme.

To make an appointment in advance, call the sales team on 01922 460 313. Lovell currently has available just two Keinton house styles at Eden Valley, each offered at a full price of £124,950.

This mid-terrace two-bedroom home is surprisingly spacious

with the ground floor comprising a stylish modern kitchen, with Bosch oven and hob; an attractive living/dining room with French doors to the garden and the hall and cloakroom.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has a fitted wardrobe while the accommodation is completed by the second bedroom and family bathroom.

The two-bedroom Fenton house style – the same house type as the development's show property – is also available at £127,950 (£102,360 price after Help to Buy Equity Loan).

Potential buyers looking for an extra bedroom will love the three-bedroom Linwood house style, an end-terrace property offering tremendous value at just £136,950 (£109,560 price after Help to Buy Equity Loan).

Call 01922 460313 to make an appointment or visit the website lovellnewhomes.co.uk

Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

0121 289 3838

Auction

Thursday 15th
October 2015
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall
Football Club, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

LOT 1

Rectory Road Sutton Coldfield

Viewings: Friday 9th October 3pm



●Guide Price £120,000 PLUS

This three bedroom property is in need of modernisation and improvement; it is situated in a popular residential area within Sutton Coldfield. The property would be perfectly suited towards an investor and with all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Reception Room, Kitchen First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom Outside: To the rear of the property there is a long garden containing an outbuilding with W.C.

LOT 2

Rosemary Court Sutton Coldfield

Viewings: 8th Oct 11.30 am, 12th Oct 11.30 am



●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

This first floor flat is situated on a small development for the over 55's. Conveniently located on Walsall Road, Four Oaks, the property is convenient for local amenities. Set in communal grounds with communal conservatory with allocated parking space, the property has sealed unit double glazing and gas fired central heating. Accommodation: Communal Hallway with lift. Stairs lead to first floor landing providing access to individual flats. Enclosed Porch with door into Entrance Hall providing access to Lounge with double glazed window to front, central heating radiator, fireplace with electric fire, sliding door to Kitchen with store cupboard, stainless steel sink unit with drainer and base units, further base units with integrated oven and hob, double glazed window to side, ceiling light point. Bedroom One having two double glazed windows to front, two central heating radiators, fitted wardrobe, Shower Room double shower cubicle, low level w.c., wash hand basin and central heating radiator. Tenure: Leasehold from 23rd August 1993. Each flat owner is a Shareholder in the Freshfield company. We are advised that a Service Charge is approximately £500 per half year.

LOT 3

Farrington Road Erdington

Viewings: By appointment 0121 289 3838



●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

This three bedroom semi detached property is situated in a popular residential area within Erdington. This property is a short walk from Wotton Lakes Park and would make an ideal purchase for first time buyer or investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Hallway, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, First Floor Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom Outside To the front of the property there is an off road parking with a paved driveway. At the rear of the property there is an overgrown garden with a raised area towards the back of the garden, which has the potential to become a decking area.

LOT 4

Friary Gardens Handsworth

Viewings: Thu 8th October 2pm, 13th October 2pm



●Guide Price £70,000 PLUS

This three bedroom semi detached property is in need of total modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area with an assortment of schools and shops in close vicinity the property is ideally suited towards an investor/owner occupiers. (This property is currently in the process of being treated for Japanese Knotweed) With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front door leads to Reception Hall, Reception Room One, Reception Room Two, Kitchen, First Floor Bedroom One with window to front, Bedroom Two With window to rear, Bedroom Three, Bathroom, Outside To the front of the property there is a small garden and a drive leading to a detached garage providing off road parking. To the rear of the property there is a well maintained private garden.

LOT 5

Millfield Road Handsworth Wood

Viewings: Thursday 8th October 1.00 pm



●Guide Price £137,500 PLUS

This three bedroom split-level detached family residence is situated in a popular residential area within Handsworth Wood. This property which only requires a small level of improvement would be suitable for investors as well as a buyer who is looking to make this their home. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Main Level: Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Bedroom One Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Family Bathroom, Lower Level: Lower Level Garage Outside: The property offers a mature front garden with off road parking at the front, at the rear there is a very private garden

LOT 5a

Wentworth Court Erdington

Viewings: By Appointment 0121 289 3838



●Guide Price £35,000 - £40,000

Located just off Kingsbury Road in a convenient and sought after location, this purpose built ground floor flat offers an ideal investment opportunity. With all amenities close at hand and good transport links to Birmingham City Centre, the property has uPVC double glazing and is set in communal grounds. Accommodation: Communal Hallway, Reception Hall leading to Lounge with double glazed window to rear, French door to small patio area, night storage heater and door to Kitchen with stainless steel sink unit with mixer tap, base and wall units, double glazed window to rear and two fitted cupboards, Bedroom with double glazed window to rear, night storage heater, Bathroom with matching white suite, panelled bath with shower over and w.c.

LOT 6

Bridgewater Close Walsall Wood

Viewings: By appointment 0121 289 3838



●Guide Price £60,000 - £70,000

Situated in Walsall Wood this three bedroom semi detached property is in need of improvement and offers great potential for an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, First Floor Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three

LOT 7

Chestnut Grove Kidderminster

Viewings: By Appointment 0121 289 3838



●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS

This Non-Traditionally constructed and terraced property which is in need of improvement is situated in a popular residential area within Kidderminster. The property which has double glazing already fitted as well as a large rear garden would be perfectly suited for an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Lounge with window to front, Rear reception room with window to rear, Kitchen with work surface already fitted and access to the rear of the property. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and bathroom. Outside: At the front of the property there is a small overgrown garden as well as a driveway, to the side of the property there is a small shed. At the rear of the property there is a large overgrown garden.

LOT 8

Great Lister Street Birmingham

Viewings: Strictly by appointment through auctioneers



●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

Situated just off Dartmouth Middleway in the heart of Birmingham City Centre with good access this former engineering works with ancillary yard and office space offers an ideal investment or owner occupier opportunity. With wide frontage and easy access via roller shutter doors, the spacious workshop area has 3 phase electric and warm air gas heating system. Ground Floor: Entrance Hall leads to ground floor facilities, which include male and female toilets, store room, meter room, corridor, and access to main workshop, measuring 24m x 16m (413sqm), access to which can be provided by 6m Roller shutter doors. Door leads to covered yard, once more accessed by roller shutter doors, opening into yard 16m x 5.6m, (908sqm). First Floor: Stairs leads to landing providing access to canteen with gas central heating boiler, providing heating to the first floor, corridor provides access to office 1, office 2, office 3. Tenure: Property is offered on a leasehold basis on a 75 year lease from Birmingham City Council commencing 18th August 1963. At a rent of £168 on a half yearly basis. Birmingham city council that they are prepared to offer a new lease further details on request.

LOT 8a

Weston Street Walsall

Viewings: Thursday 8th October 10:30am



●Guide Price £65,000 PLUS

Ideally suited for a first time buyer or investor this traditional mid terraced property has gas central heating and is mostly double glazed. Situated in a popular residential area with all amenities close at hand the well maintained accommodation comprises: Ground Floor Lounge double glazed window to front, Dining room with double glazed French door to rear garden, useful under stair cupboard and door to Kitchen with window to side, rear lobby with Firoli gas central heating boiler and door to outside, Bathroom with matching white suite and shower, First Floor Bedroom 1 (Front) Bedroom 2 (Rear) Outside Enclosed yard and private rear garden.

LOT 9

Norman Road Northfield

Viewings: Strictly by Appointment through auctioneers



●Guide Price £200,000 PLUS

Situated close to Northfield centre, with all facilities provided including good local schools, this traditionally styled double fronted detached property is set on a good sized plot with space to both sides offering a tremendous development opportunity. In need of improvement the property offers spacious well planned accommodation set back from the road behind a wide fore garden with driveway to side. Viewing of the property is recommended to fully appreciate this unique opportunity. Ground Floor: Porch leads to entrance hall, then into lounge with window to front and opening to dining room, Kitchen, Shower/Wet Room, Lobby, W.C., Store, Garage First Floor: Landing leads to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Outside To the front of the property there is a driveway with off street parking and access to a garage. The left hand side of the property would be ideal for an extension/redevelopment. At the rear of the property there is a large garden with a lot of potential.

LOT 10

Gorway Road Walsall

Viewings: 9th October 10:30am,



●Guide Price £200,000 PLUS

This large detached property which is situated in a popular residential area of Walsall is in need of modernisation and offers great scope for improvement. The property is set on a good sized plot with space to the side and the rear which gives it great development potential. (This property is currently in the process of being treated for Japanese Knotweed) With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front door leads to Entrance hall, Lounge, Reception Room, Kitchen, Garage, First Floor W.C., Bedroom with window to back, Bedroom with window to front, Bedroom with window to back and cupboard. Outside At the front of the property there is a good sized drive with garden providing off road parking. At the rear of the property there is a large garden which holds a lot of potential. The rear of the property also has an outbuilding with W.C attached.

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide

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£82,995



POND GROVE, PARKFIELDS
Two Bed End Town House Having Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Refitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/ Heating, Off Road Parking, Great F.T.B Or B.T.L

£85,000



SQUIRES GROVE, W-HALL
Modern Two Bed First Floor Apartment Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge With Juliette Balcony, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazed & E/ Heating.

£89,995



BROAD LANE, ESSINGTON
Two Bed Mid Terrace Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Loft Room, Shower Room, C/H & Part D/G, Parking, Refurbishment Project.

£94,995



BLOXWICH RD SOUTH, W-HALL
Two Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden & Driveway.

£100,000



ERNEST CLARKE CL, W-HALL
Three Bed End Town House Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Area, Family Bathroom And Separate W.C., D/ Glazing & C/ Heating Throughout, Garden & Off Road Parking To The Rear.

£104,995



EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL
Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000



SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Bathroom, D/G, G/CH, Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£119,950



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Inner Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Generous Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Sun Room & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P To The Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£119,995



BIRCHES RISE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Allocated Off Road Parking Space. VIEWING ADVISED!

O.I.R.O £120,000



ASHMORE LAKE RD, W-HALL
Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Dining Room, Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/ Heating Throughout, Generous Rear Garden.

£124,995



STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Refitted Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory And Ground Floor WC, Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Garage To The Rear.

£124,995



BASALT CLOSE, WALSALL
Modern Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Kitchen, Lounge/ Diner, En-Suite To Master Bed & Family Bathroom, Garage, Front And Rear Garden. D/G And C/H Throughout. Off Road Parking.

£127,995



CONWAY CRES, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Through Lounge/Diner, Play Room/Study, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, Gas C/H, Garage.

£129,995



W-TON RD WEST, WALSALL
Traditional Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/ Glazing, Gas C/ Heating, Garage, Driveway, Garden With A Brick Built Detached Summer House.

£138,995



BROAD LANE STH, W-FIELD
Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/ Heating, Rear Garden And Driveway To Front And Side.

£145,000



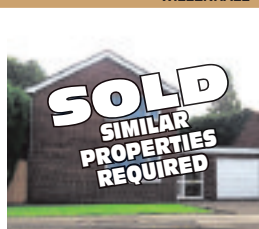
DILLOWAYS LANE, W-HALL
Two, Two Bedroom Self Contained Flats Both Having Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen And Family Shower Room. Both Flats Also Benefit From D/ Glazing & C/ Heating.

£145,000



WELLAND GROVE, W-HALL
Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/ Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear, Driveway & Garage.

£145,995



SHEPWELL GREEN, W-HALL
Three Bed Detached Requiring Updating Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility And Ground Floor W.C. Family Bathroom, C/H, Part D/G, Garage.

£152,500



PINENEEDLE CROFT, W-HALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Bungalow Which Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Good Sized Lounge/ Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, D/ Glazing, C/ Heating, Driveway & Private Rear Garden.

£169,950



BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G. G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear.

£185,000



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL
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FOUR BED DETACHED
MUST BE VIEWED

£219,995



ST MAWES ROAD, W-HAMPTON
Four Bed Detached Property Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen And Utility Room. En-suite Along With A Family Bathroom. The Property Benefits From Part D/G And G/C/H.

£239,995



BLOXWICH RD NTH, W-HALL
Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/ Glazing, C/ Heating.

£260,000

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• Extended Semi Detached Residence - No Upward Chain
• UPVc double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: **£120,000**
Viewing:

Constantine Way Bilston



• Immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate
• UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall • Guest Cloakroom
OFFERS AROUND: **£179,950**
Viewing:

Newbolt Road Bilston



• Middle Terrace Residence
• Gas Central Heating & UPVc Double Glazing
• Reception Hall
• EPC TBC, Lounge
OFFERS AROUND: **£94,950**
Viewing:

Moseley Road Bilston



• Semi Detached Residence Requiring some Modernisation
• UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: **£115,000**
Viewing:

Upper Ettingshall Road Bilston



• Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
• Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall • Guest WC
• EPC Rating D, Lounge & Dining Room
OFFERS AROUND: **£170,000**
Viewing:

Shale Street Bilston



• 3 Bedroom semi detached house
• Entrance porch and hallway
• Lounge
• Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: **£100,000**
Viewing:

Stowmans Close Bilston



• Two Bedroom Semi Detached
• No Chain
• Ideal FTB
• EPC tbc, Lounge
OFFERS AROUND: **£125,000**
Viewing:

Portway Road Bilston



• 3 Bedroom semi detached house
• No upward chain
• Lounge/diner
• EPC E, Modern kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: **£125,000**
Viewing:

Bilston Lane Willenhall

NEW



• 2 Bedroom end terraced house
• Lounge
• Breakfast kitchen
• Downstairs wc
OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**
Viewing:

Rosehill Willenhall

NEW



• 3 Bedroom semi detached house
• No upward chain
• Lounge
• Dining room
OFFERS AROUND: **£125,000**
Viewing:

Hodson Avenue Willenhall

REDUCED



• 3 Bedroom semi detached house
• Entrance porch and hallway
• Lounge
• EPC - D, Kitchen/diner
OFFERS AROUND: **£110,000**
Viewing:

Woodcote Road Wolverhampton

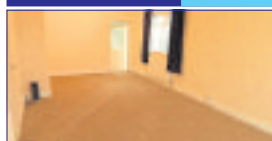
NEW



• Modern 4 bedroom detached house in Tettenhall
• Lounge
• Dining Room
• Downstairs wc
OFFERS AROUND: **£300,000**
Viewing:

Uplands Avenue Willenhall

NEW



• 2 Bedroom detached bungalow
• Refurbished and modernised
• Entrance porch and hallway
• Modern shower room
OFFERS AROUND: **£145,000**
Viewing:

Coltham Road Willenhall

NEW



• Refurbished and modernised
• 2 Bedroom mid terrace house
• Lounge
• Dining room
OFFERS AROUND: **£110,000**
Viewing:

Durberville Road Wolverhampton



• Mid terrace house with No Upward Chain
• UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Porch • Reception Hall
• EPC Rating D, Lounge • Dining Room
OFFERS AROUND: **£112,500**
Viewing:

Wayford Glade Willenhall



• Semi detached house with No Upward Chain
• UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall
• EPC - D, Lounge
OFFERS AROUND: **£139,950**
Viewing:

Jenny Close Bilston

REDUCED



• Semi detached
• 3 Bedroom
• Cul-de-sac
• EPC = TBC, Driveway
OFFERS AROUND: **£130,000**
Viewing:

Rosehill Willenhall



• Edwardian 4 Bedroom family house
• Retains character and further potential
• Lounge open to kitchen
• EPC - F, Dining room
OFFERS AROUND: **£179,000**
Viewing:

Shepherd Drive Willenhall

NEW



• 3 Bedroom semi detached house
• Corner plot
• Lounge
• Breakfast kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**
Viewing:

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Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW



High Street, Bloxwich

- A spacious self contained First Floor Flat
- 2 Bedrooms
- PVCu double glazing
- Convenient Location
- Available now on an assured tenancy agreement.
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- All enquiries to letting agents
- £180 reference fee applies

£395

Energy Rating - D



Harden Close, Leamore

- First floor maisonette
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, fitted kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage and parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£59,950

Energy Rating - TBC



Water Reed Grove, Leamore

- Self contained 2nd floor apartment
- Centrally heated a PVCu Double Glazing
- lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms,
- bathroom
- well kept communal gardens
- Allocated parking space

£86,000

Energy Rating - C



Field Road, Bloxwich

- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms,
- kitchen
- bathroom/WC
- 2 bedrooms
- Neat rear garden

£89,950

Energy Rating - E



Bloxwich Lane, Beechdale

- End Town House
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- utility, 2/3 Bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Ample off road parking
- Neat fore and rear gardens
- Viewing Essential

£95,000

Energy Rating - D



Tonadine Close, Ashmore Park, Wolverhampton

- End town house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Detached workshop
- garden
- Must View

£100,000

Energy Rating - C



Benton Close, Off Stroud Avenue, Willenhall

- Beautifully Presented a Spacious End Town House
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge,
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Study
- 3 Excellent Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Separate WC
- Block paved Driveway, Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain

£125,000

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Energy Rating - D

NEW



Hamilton Street, Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, gardens
- MUST VIEW

£119,950

Energy Rating - C



Woodend Farm, Sutton Road, Walsall

- Ground Floor Retirement Apartment
- Double Glazed
- Gas under floor heating
- Lounge, Kitchen
- 1 bedroom, Shower Room
- Communal Lounge and Gardens
- Allocated and visitor Parking
- No Onward Chain

£130,000

Energy Rating - E



Harden Road, Leamore, Walsall

- Traditional Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room,
- kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway, enclosed garden
- Must View

£145,000

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW



Grenfell Road, Little Bloxwich, Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge
- kitchen/dining room
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Ample parking and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£165,000

Energy Rating - E



Lichfield Road, Bloxwich

- Link Detached House
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC
- Garage, Driveway, Gardens
- Must View

£174,950

Energy Rating - C



Bell Lane, Bloxwich

- Modern 3 Storey End Town House
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms
- Four Bedrooms, Master with En-suite a Dressing Area
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden a Detached Garage
- Builders Warranty

£179,950

Energy Rating - D



Station Street, Cheslyn Hay

- Semi detached corner house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- Sitting room (or bedroom 4)
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway and gardens
- MUST VIEW

£185,000

Energy Rating - D



Ganton Road, Turnberry, Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Partially double glazed
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, gardens
- MUST VIEW

£194,950

Energy Rating - D



Baytree Close, Bloxwich

- Detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, gardens, driveway
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£239,950

Energy Rating - D



Stafford Close, Bloxwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Through Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC
- Garage, Driveway
- Rear Garden

£260,000

Energy Rating - E



Hobnock Road, Essington

- Character Detached Cottage
- Enclosed Storm Porch
- Lounge, Sitting Area, Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms, Shower Room
- Garage and a Large Rear Garden
- Potential to Extend (Subject to planning permission)

£289,950

Energy Rating - B



Par Court, Sanstone Road, Bloxwich

- Detached Family Home
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, large dining/family room/ kitchen
- 5 bedrooms, 2 En-suites,
- Family bathroom/WC
- 2 car garage, drive, gardens
- Must View

£400,000

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LOT 1
COLTHAM ROAD WILLENHALL
• Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
• Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
• Bathroom • Part Gas Central Heating System
• Long Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain
STARTING BID £75000



LOT 2
KING CHARLES AV BENTLEY
• Extended Semi-detached On Corner Plot
• Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen
• Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage
• Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway
STARTING BID £60,000



LOT 3
DOVEDALE AVENUE WILLENHALL
• A Spacious Semi Detached Property
• Hall, Through Lounge, Kitchen
• Three Bedrooms
• Bathroom, Rear Gardens, No Chain
STARTING BID £69,995



LOT 4
WILLENHALL ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON
• Victorian style 3 BED mid terrace property
• Two reception rooms
• Shower room
• Gas central heating and double glazing
STARTING BID £50,000



LOT 5
SNEYD HALL ROAD BLOXWICH
• Three bedrooms detached
• Two reception rooms Kitchen and side entry
• Gas central heating Upvc double glazing
• Pleasant rear garden, Garage and off road parking
STARTING BID £85,000



LOT 6
NOTTINGHAM NEW ROAD REEDSWOOD
• Semi detached property
• Popular development convenient for road links
• Gas fired radiator central heating
• Upvc double glazing
STARTING BID £90,000



LOT 7
CENTRAL DRIVE BLOXWICH
• Three bedrooms Semi Detached
• Gas central heating two reception rooms
• Upstairs shower room, Generous rear garden
• Off road parking to the fore
STARTING BID £60,000



LOT 8
CANNOCK ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom semi-detached property
• Lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen
• Modern shower room, Double glazing
• Enclosed rear garden and driveway & Garage
STARTING BID £80,000



LOT 9
CHURCHFIELDS ROAD WEDNESBURY
• Four bed semi detached
• Lounge & dining room
• Fitted kitchen • Bathroom & separate toilet
• Double glazing & central heating • Garage
STARTING BID £110,000



LOT 10
YEW TREE LANE COSELEY
• Detached bungalow in prominent position
• Two bedrooms and bathroom
• Lounge and Excellent fitted kitchen
• Plenty of off road parking too!
STARTING BID £89,950



LOT 11
QUEEN STREET MOXLEY
• Three bedroom semi detached home
• Gas central heating two reception rooms
• Upstairs shower room, Generous rear garden
• Ground Floor shower room
• Gardens to front and rear
STARTING BID £57,000



LOT 12
MAGNESS CRESCENT WILLENHALL
• Pleasantly appointed 3 BED semi
• Gas central heating UPVC double glazing
• Spacious 'L' shaped lounge/dining room
• Block paved driveway Pleasant rear garden
STARTING BID £80,000



ONLINE
RIBBERSFORD AV WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom detached house on generous plot
• Large lounge • Separate dining room
• Fitted kitchen • Bathroom & separate toilet
• Central heating throughout: EPC TBC
STARTING BID £265,000



LIVE
MILL LANE LITTLE SAREDON
• Two/Three bedroom semi-detached cottage
• Lounge & Separate dining room • Fitted kitchen
• Double glazing & Central heating
• Driveway parking & Double garage EPC TBC
STARTING BID £170,000



ONLINE
BROAD LANE SOUTH WEDNESFIELD
• Three bedroom semi-detached EPC TBC
• Lounge & Dining room • Fitted kitchen
• Downstairs bathroom • Double glazing
• Enclosed rear garden • Driveway parking
STARTING BID £120,000



LIVE
TRYSYLL ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom semi-detached EPC TBC
• Lounge & Dining room • Fitted kitchen
• Downstairs toilet • Enclosed rear garden
• Double glazing • Driveway parking & Garage
STARTING BID £90,000



LIVE
HAWKSWORD CRES WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom semi-detached property
• Lounge & Dining room, Kitchen EPC TBC
• Bathroom • Majority double glazing
• Rear garden • Potential driveway parking
STARTING BID £60,000



LIVE
INGLEBY GARDENS WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom mid-terrace property
• Lounge / Dining area • Modern fitted kitchen
• Double glazing & Central heating EPC TBC
• Enclosed rear garden • Driveway & Garage
STARTING BID £55,000



LIVE
RINGWOOD ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom semi-detached
• Lounge & Dining room • Kitchen / Bathroom
• Central heating & majority double glazing
• Enclosed rear garden EPC TBC
STARTING BID £55,000



LIVE
BUSHBURY LANE WOLVERHAMPTON
• Three bedroom mid-terrace property EPC TBC
• Lounge with feature fireplace • Fitted kitchen
• Family bathroom • Double glazing & CH
• Enclosed rear garden • Driveway parking
STARTING BID £50,000



ONLINE
HAZEL GROVE WEDNESFIELD
• Two bedroom detached bungalow
• Lounge with feature fireplace
• Fitted kitchen • Wet room • Double glazing
• CH • Enclosed rear garden EPC TBC
STARTING BID £45,000



LIVE
BOSCOBEL CRESCENT WOLVERHAMPTON
• Two bedroom flat, EPC TBC
• Lounge with balcony • Kitchen
• Family bathroom • Double glazing throughout
• Electric heating • Intercom system
STARTING BID £20,000

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A THREE-BEDROOMED detached character cottage, Old Chelsea, 61 Church Hill, Penn, Wolverhampton has been updated and well maintained throughout.

It is for sale through Butters John Bee at £310,000.

Having an idyllic balance of charming original features, it has a porch and timber entrance door with a leaded window, a lounge with a spiral staircase and an inglenook fireplace with a log burner, a dining kitchen with granite work surfaces, a utility, WC, a study with a vaulted ceiling, a hallway with timber panelling, a bedroom with a gable window having country views, two further bedrooms (one with further captivating views) and a bathroom with a white suite.

Contact Butters John Bee on 01902 710888 or visit www.buttersjohnbee.co.uk



Lots of space at improved terrace

THIS much improved mid-terraced property in Salter Road, Tipton has spacious and superbly presented accommodation.

Attractively decorated throughout, the house is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £99,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating throughout, the deceptively accommodating property features a reception hall, an open plan lounge/modern fitted dining kitchen with wood-effect laminate flooring throughout, three bedrooms (bedroom one with fitted wardrobes).

There is a modern fitted bathroom with a white and pale pink suite, a driveway to the front and a rear garden.

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BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL **EPC: D**

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- Communal Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Shower Room
- Electric Heating

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THE PINNACLE, WILLENHALL **EPC: C**

- 9th Floor Flat
- Hallway & bathroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Two Bedroom
- Communal Parking
- Lift & Staircase

£425pcm - plus fees

PEREGRINE HOUSE, WALSALL **EPC: D**

- Second Floor Flat
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Warm Air Heating
- Communal Gardens

£450pcm - plus fees

COPPICKE ROAD, WALSALL **EPC: D**

- Two Bed End Terrace
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- GCH & UPVC DG
- Parking To Side
- Front & Rear Garden

£475pcm - plus fees

WATERFRONT WAY, WALSALL **EPC: D**

- Second Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge & Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Storage Heaters
- UPVC DG & Parking

£490pcm - plus fees

COXMOOR CLOSE **EPC: C**

- Two Bed Townhouse
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Conservatory
- Bathroom
- Parking & Garden
- GCH & DG

£525pcm-plus fees

BORNEO STREET, WALSALL **EPC: F**

- Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- Downstairs Bathroom
- GCH, Double Glazing

£595pcm - plus fees

MELLISH PARK, WALSALL **EPC: B**

- Fully Furnished First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge / Dining Room
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- CCTV Security Parking
- Building Entry System

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Ashtree Road Pelsall



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A lovely three bedroom detached cottage having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, conservatory, ground floor shower room, three bedrooms (master is attic conversion with ensuite), rear gardens, detached garage with ample off road parking for several vehicles. Energy rating E.

Bloxwich Road Walsall



Offers around £105,000

A fully refurbished and upgraded 3 bedroom middle terrace having the benefit of fresh decoration, new carpets, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This well presented family home further comprises lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen with built in oven and hob, re-fitted ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, Refitted W.C (on first floor) and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Burgh Way Walsall



Offers around £140,000

A modern 3 bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, guest W.C, 3 bedrooms, ensuite shower room, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and detached garage. Energy rating C.

Talke Road Walsall



Offers around £120,000

A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, guest W.C, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking. Awaiting energy rating.

Shepwell Green Willenhall



Offer around £69,995

A two bedroom second floor flat having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, central heating and no upward chain. Ideal for landlord (previously let out for £480pcm or first time buyer this well presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, study/store, fitted kitchen, 2 x double bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, parking space and garage. Energy rating E.

Fallowfield Road Park Hall



Offers around £475,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a unique, one off design, brand new, executive, four bedroom detached family home in a much sought after estate, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating & underfloor heating, CCTV and fitted intruder alarm. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, spacious through lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest W.C/bathroom, four double bedrooms, 2 x ensuites and family bathroom, integral garage, driveway with electric gate providing secure off road parking. Estimated completion is set for the end November 2015. Awaiting energy rating. All room sizes are taken from plan not 'as built'.

Oxford Place Walsall



Offers around £77,000

●●●IDEAL FOR LANDLORD AS CURRENTLY LET OUT FOR £475PCM●●● A superb two bedroom second floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely apartment further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted modern kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (master with en suite shower room), family bathroom with shower from taps and allocated parking. Energy rating C.

Aldis Road Walsall



Offers around £110,000

A recently refurbished two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Lincoln Road Walsall



Offers around £95,000

A very well presented two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, spacious open plan through lounge/diner, fitted breakfast kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, good size family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Almond Avenue Walsall



Offers around £139,995

An extended three bedroom semi detached having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, dining room, extended lounge, extended kitchen, guest W.C, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, attic room (off bedroom two), front and rear gardens, 2 x detached garages and off road parking. Energy rating E.

Corn Mill Close Walsall



Offers around £47,500

●●50% Shared property, with option to buy the full 100%●● A well presented 2 bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating D.

Market Square Wolverhampton



Offers around £65,000

●●Suit landlord or first time buyer (Currently let out for £475pcm)●● A well presented one bedroom modern City centre apartment located on the third floor and being in the heart of Wolverhampton City Centre with the benefit of no upward chain, security intercom and lift to the first floor, double glazing and electric central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, double bedroom, luxury bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen and secure allocated parking. EPC rating of C.

Cope Street Walsall



Offers around £90,000

A very well presented, improved and upgraded 2/3 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of majority UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The well maintained family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, ground floor refitted bathroom, 3 bedrooms (3rd bedroom accessed through bedroom one) and attractive rear garden. Energy rating D.

Patriot Close Walsall



Offers around £105,000

A modern two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Set in a quiet cul de sac the property further comprises, lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and off road parking. IDEAL FOR LANDLORD OR FIRST TIME BUYER. Energy rating D.

Bentley Drive Walsall



Offers over £110,000

A superb, improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, two double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

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PROPERTY AUCTION - 20th OCTOBER 2015



638 PARKFIELD ROAD PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV4 6EH

Popular location, Mid Terraced, canopy Porch, Two Reception, large Rear Hall, Cellar, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, large Bathroom, Gas CH., some Double Glazing, Outside: Two Stores, long garden EPC E54

Guide: £60,000 / £65,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th
OCTOBER @ 10.30 a.m.**



3 CASTLECROFT ROAD BILSTON, WV14 6PQ

Investment – current income £5,700 p.a.x. Conveniently situated Semi-Detached, Double Glazing, Gas CH, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Hall, fitted Cloakroom

Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, enclosed Rear Garden EPC E45

Guide: £70,000 / £75,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & MONDAY, 9th & 12th
OCTOBER @ 10.00 a.m.**



86 CASTLECROFT ROAD CASTLECROFT, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV3 8DA

Good residential area, well appointed Bungalow, Gas CH, Porch, Hall, 22ft Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom Store, ample Parking & Garage, lovely 100ft Rear Garden EPC D60

Guide: £113,000 / £118,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 9th & 10th
OCTOBER @ 11.15 a.m.**



3 PRIESTFIELD STREET BILSTON, WV14 ONE

Investment – Current income £6,300 p.a.x. Large Mid Terraced in ideal location Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Hall, WC & Store

Three double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, attractive Rear Garden EPC TBA

Guide: £70,000 / £75,000

VIEWING:

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14 GLOUCESTER STREET WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 OPT

Well located Mid Terraced, Two Reception, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two double Bedrooms, Gas CH system, Double Glazing EPC TBA

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING:

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OLD STOWHEATH LANE, WV1 2QN

Character Detached House with large grounds, outbuildings & Garage Double Glazing, Gas Heating, Two Reception, Kitchen, Sun Lounge Two Bedrooms, Bathroom – ample scope to extend STPP EPC E43

Guide: £115,000 / £120,000

VIEWING:

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41 STRATTON STREET WOLVERHAMPTON, WV10 9AJ

Exceptionally well presented End Terraced Home

Two Reception, well appointed Kitchen, Rear Hall, large Bathroom, Three Bedrooms Private Garden, Double Glazing, Gas CH EPC D62

Guide: £59,000 / £64,000

VIEWING:

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38 STUBBS ROAD, PENN FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV3 7DJ

Investment

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Guide: £365,000 / £375,000

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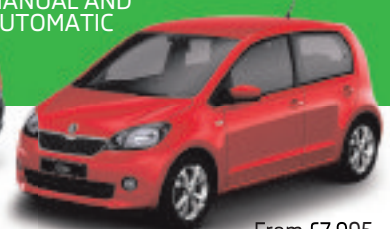
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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 21.7 (13.0) - 72.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined 30.4 (9.3) - 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range are 21.7 - 88g/km.

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*Part exchange vehicles must have at least 3 months M.O.T. minimum.

Discoing across France

By Ian Donaldson

Make a mental list of the ideal car for a couple of weeks – and nearly 2,000 miles – of motoring through France and you would probably not put a Land Rover Discovery at the top.

Too big, too thirsty and not much fun to drive might be your leading demerits as you mentally pencilled in something much smaller and more sensible.

Well, I would have done precisely the same before clambering up (and it is a bit of climb) into the Discovery's cockpit. But I would have been wrong in the most pleasantly surprising of ways...

For starters, it's not too big. A tape measure shows the Disco looks bigger than it is. For instance, a Vauxhall Insignia Tourer estate is longer than this solidly built off-roader and only a couple of inches less wide.

And the Disco comes with a couple of advantages that other 4x4s tend to share and which makes owners love them for their surprising everyday practicality.

Building them tall and square makes them easier to steer a path through both urban jungle and the real thing, should you go off-roading in deepest Borneo. Not that, at

£59,970 for this priciest version, you'd ever want to.

Then, thanks to an optional £740 pack on the test car, a clever tweak with a couple of tiny cameras made things easier still. They show where the front wheels are in relation to the kerb, so approaching a French autoroute toll booth on the 'wrong side' was a simple matter of keeping an eye on the dashboard screen.

Bright sunlight sometimes blotted out the image but mostly it worked well and saved potential contact between the Discovery's handsome (and expensive) 20ins alloy wheels and hard bits of roadside France.

So, the car did not feel too big. Certainly not too big for all the luggage two people need (apparently) for a couple of weeks in France, which almost filled the huge boot but left enough space for a stop at Calais for - you've guessed – a box or two of wine.

Not too big to fit comfortably into the giant hold of P&O's Spirit of Britain which took us across the Channel and back and made the journey feel like a proper holiday.

Then, to the thirst of the engine which has to pull one of the heaviest cars you can buy. The Discovery's immense off-road strength is down in part to a chassis built like a tank and the whole caboodle weighs an immense 2570kgs – or more than two-and-a-half times the weight of a Ford Fiesta.



'Two weeks after stepping up into the Discovery I was sad to see it go – here is a car that genuinely exceeded my expectations by a country mile.'

That means the 3.0 litre diesel has to work for a living, which made the 31.6mpg recorded over more than 1,900 miles of holiday travel look the right side of reasonable. Factor in the cheapness of diesel in France, at about 82p a litre and the Discovery was hitting a UK wallet at the equivalent of about 43 miles to the gallon. Result, I'd say. The engine also contributes to the easy-going nature of the car, slurring smoothly through the eight-speed automatic gearbox and providing the sort of mid-range pull that could easily surprise a dawdling Frenchman (and did, once or twice).

Riding high and carrying all that weight is no recipe for grand prix-style road manners but the Discovery made mincemeat

of the deliciously empty and smoothly surfaced highways of France – and side roads almost comically good to explore in comparison to poor pockmarked, overloaded Britain.

Two more aids to stress free jaunts abroad are found by digging gently into the dashboard display where, with a few clicks of the button on the steering wheel, the digital speed display switches to kilometres an hour and the headlights set themselves to dip on the 'French' side of the road.

Two weeks after first stepping up into the Discovery I was sad to see it go – here is a car that genuinely exceeded my expectations by a country mile – or a French kilometre.

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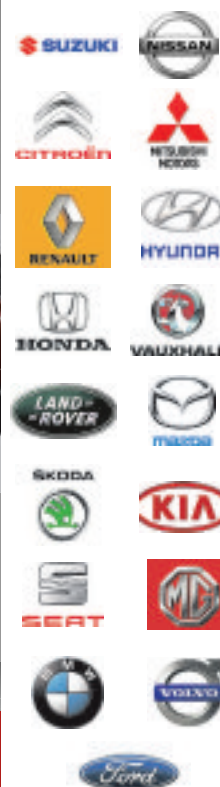
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5 Business & Farming

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business directory

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A double delight for Dean as Henry strikes

WALSALL boss Dean Smith was delighted with his side after they secured victory at Scunthorpe in his 250th game in a charge.

A brilliant Rico Henry goal midway through the first half was enough for the Saddlers to claim a 1-0 win at Glanford Park.

The result means Smith's side remain unbeaten on their travels in League One this season with Smith pleased to mark his landmark anniversary with three points.

"I didn't realise it was my 250th game until I was told on Monday," Smith said.

"It has gone really quickly, but it was great we could get a win to mark the occasion and hopefully we can get another at Wigan."

After dominating the opening 45 minutes, Walsall had to dig deep in the second half to protect their one goal advantage with Smith thrilled with his player's organisation and resilience.

"That was one of my most pleasing results of the season in terms of performance, discipline and doggedness – which is not a word you associate with our team much," the boss said.

"We had to dig in. We knew it was going to be a tough game, the pitch was tight and they got into our faces and didn't give us too much time on the ball.

"Defensively we were very professional. They had a lot of ball in the second half but we protected the goal really well.

"The players felt comfortable out there. They didn't look like they were going to concede." Smith was also chuffed with Henry's goal after the 18-year-old finished more like a striker than a left-back.

Villa's boss asks where are the men?

BOSS Tim Sherwood claims players need to "man up" if Villa are to climb out of trouble.

The claret and blues visit struggling Chelsea next and Sherwood claims he "needs some men to come out of the woodwork".

While accepting his role in Villa's sorry start to the season, the manager reckons it is time players started taking responsibility too.

"I like to try to win enough games rather than going out there not to be beat because I've done that a few times and you end up getting beat anyway," said Sherwood.

"I'd rather go to win but I need to find a team out of the squad who can go to places like Stamford Bridge and not be scared and are willing to put up a fight and be brave on the football.

"I'm learning all the time about them. They train hard, they're all good lads. I need some men to come out of the woodwork."

Sherwood has vowed to keep tinkering with his line-ups.

Pelsall pay for chances they missed

Atherstone 3 Pelsall Villa 0
PELSALL Villa may well feel they were the better side at Atherstone – but lost 3-0.

Kyle Turner's two late goals settled the game after Jake Brown – who later suffered a knee injury – had put the home side ahead in the Midland Football League Division One game.

Brown gave the hosts the lead on 17 minutes when he slid past Cresswell and slotted home.

Pelsall's best chance of the first half fell to Murray but he was denied by keeper Bloore.

Pelsall dominated possession again in the second half but wasted chances.

Michael Murray, Spencer Blackham, Mitchell Clarke and Carl Morris all went close for the visitors.

Wood come close to an upset

Heanor Town 2 Walsall Wood 2

HEANOR moved to the top courtesy of this point, still with a game in hand on Hereford, but it was Wood playing with a passion that restored pride in the team who almost turned the form book upside down by scoring first and last.

The Lions started well pinning Wood in their own half.

Wood shook the Lions by going ahead in the first 20 minutes, Joey Butlin nodding down a left wing free kick for Dan Griffiths, his first time effort bounced down off the bar and he pounced to bury the rebound into the roof of the net.

The lead lasted just four minutes, a flowing move

down the inside right channel, the Lions seemed to lose the ball but Johnson charged down an attempted clearance on the right of the box and although Evans got both hands to the near post low drive he couldn't stop the ball crossing the line.

As half time approached Cooper raced clear wide right, crossed to the far post, substitute Daniel Claridge heading back across the keeper and into the net to put the hosts ahead.

The first action of the second half saw Drew Aiton on the end of an intricate right wing move, his low near post cross put behind by Booth to deny the hard working Butlin.

On 75 minutes a clever left wing move saw Butlin

collect a ball inside, before his slide rule through-ball released Griffiths into the left of the box, he was calmness personified as he buried a cross shot into the right corner of the net past the stranded Whittingham.

With both sides looking to have settled for a point apiece a right wing free kick for the home side on 88 minutes was collected beyond the far post by Hall, he quickly played the ball back across the face of the box, it was touched back by Cooper to danger man Johnson to fire a first time effort high and wide. Both sides were warmly applauded off the pitch at the end.

Smith has cause for a double celebration

Scunthorpe 0 Walsall 1

A BRILLIANT first-half goal from Rico Henry secured the points for Walsall, who remain unbeaten away from home in League One.

On the anniversary of his 250th game in charge, boss Dean Smith will have been delighted with the way his side played attacking football in the first half but dug deep to protect their lead in the second period.

The result means Saddlers remain second in the table, but just one point behind Burton who drew 0-0 with Sheffield United.

Smith sprung a selection surprise before kick-off with Jordan Cook coming in for his first league start since the opening day draw against Oldham.

The 25-year-old partnered Tom Bradshaw in attack with the boss plumping for a 3-5-2 formation which saw Romaine Sawyers operate in midfield.

For the Iron, under the management of former Saddler Mark Robins, Dutch striker Kevin van Veen was recalled to the starting XI after being benched for Saturday's loss at Southend.

After a quiet opening 10 minutes, Walsall slowly started going through the gears and were soon enjoying a lot of possession around the Scunthorpe box.

Tricked

But it was the home side who created the game's first real chance when winger Joe Lolley tricked his way past Andy Taylor and into the box.

The Huddersfield loanee, who only signed on Monday, looked to curl the ball around Neil Etheridge but the keeper got down well to claim.

Buoyed by the move, the Iron came forward again with Van Veen finding Lolley with a brilliant cross-field ball.

The winger steadied himself before whipping in a cross towards Paddy Madden which Paul Downing expertly nipped in to clear.

Determined to regain the initiative, Walsall hit back with Luke Daniels forcing into a sprawling one-handed save after Cook met a fine cross from Rico Henry.

From the resultant corner, Bradshaw planted a header inches past the post.

Smith's men now had their tails up and they took the lead with a wonderfully worked goal in the 27th minute.

Fine build-up play saw the ball worked to Cook who, under pressure from two defenders, man-



Adam Chambers challenges for the ball during the match away at Scunthorpe

aged to bustle his way to the edge of the box and then brilliantly slip-in the darting Henry.

The 18-year-old then showed all his composure to dust off a last-ditch tackle and produce a delicate chip over Luke Daniels and into the bottom right corner.

Minutes later, the Saddlers almost doubled their lead. Cook turned Murray Wallace inside the box and aimed a strike at the top corner which hit the side netting. At the other end, Van Veen drew a fine save

from Etheridge with a curling left-footed effort from just inside the box.

In a bid to get to back on level terms, Scunthorpe continued to press for last five minutes of the half. In the second half while Robins' side continued to enjoy the lion's share of possession, they were struggling to create any clear-cut chances with Walsall defending well. The Saddlers who almost doubled their advantage with Taylor sending a free-kick just over.

We can go up with our form, Etheridge

GOALKEEPER Neil Etheridge believes Walsall's performance in the win at Scunthorpe shows they are genuine promotion contenders.

The Saddlers, who remain unbeaten on their travels in League One, ground out a hard-fought 1-0 victory thanks to Rico Henry's stunning first-half goal.

Having enjoyed the lion's share of possession in most games this season, Dean Smith's men had to soak up a lot of pressure and dig deep in the second half at Glanford Park.

But despite the Iron seeing a lot of the ball, they couldn't break through Walsall's organised and well-drilled defence.

"If we want to be up there at the end of the season we need to go to places like Scunthorpe and defend like we did," Etheridge said. "Scunthorpe was a different performance, it was like no other we have had this season.

"All-round it was an excellent defensive performance.

"We work very hard on the training ground, with our shape and dealing with balls being sent into the box.

"The defence know I want to come for crosses and help them out as much as I can. We have a great understanding.

"Against Scunthorpe we were really well drilled.

"All the boys did fantastically well – it wasn't just the defenders, it was all over the field. It was a great collective effort."

The result saw the Saddlers get back to winning ways after consecutive league draws against Peterborough and Crewe.

"The start we have had has been fantastic," Etheridge said.

Old Wulfs put to the test and found wanting

Aldridge & Walsall 3 Old Wulfrunians 0

AFTER promotion last season Old Wulfs began life with a difficult test against one of last season's high fliers.

With Matt Litchfield and Michael Birch missing through injury it was a doubly hard task, but Wulfs began well, with new signing Simon Palmer looking assured alongside Darryl Ablard in midfield.

Aldridge caused problems with the aerial ball but so did Wulfs thanks to Ricky Lally.

Aldridge took the lead half way through the first half with a nicely deflected effort.

Wulfs pressed hard for an equaliser in the second period but the keeper denied first Mark Wilson then Griffiths with excellent saves.

Cartwright and Ashworth combined well on the right hand side to create more problems, but Wulfs began to run out of steam, and as they pushed higher to force an opening were beaten by two late goals from the home side.

Darlo's lead slips away for a share

Penncroft 2 Darlaston 2

DARLASTON surrendered a two-goal lead as hosts Penncroft fought back to salvage a West Midlands Division One point at the Goodyear Pavilion.

Lucas Hough opening the scoring for the visitors on the half-hour when his free-kick rebounded off the five-man wall but he beat keeper Tom Griffiths with the follow-up.

Two minutes later, Darlaston were in the driving seat when Sam Giles netted from the penalty spot following a foul on player-manager Mark Swann.

But David Lander reduced the arrears on 64 minutes and Griffiths' fine save from Swann proved crucial as Omari Lee ran through to equalise.

Hereford showing their six appeal

Walsall Wood 0 Hereford 6

WOOD were comprehensively beaten by a team who turned in a superb, scintillating and brilliant display.

The visitors had the better of the opening exchanges but it took them until the eighth minute to have a shot on target, a flowing left to right move across the face of the Wood box ending with Pablo Haysham sidestepping a defender and hitting a rising drive that was well-saved by keeper Lee Evans.

On 16 minutes a long ball forward flew over the top of the Wood defence, Evans racing from his area to head clear, the ball only found Aaron Birch 35 yards out who hit a first time low high and wide.

Wood were working hard to get a foothold in the game but it was the visitors exerting most of the pressure.

A stunning one-touch move down the centre from halfway gave them the 35th minute breakthrough.

Wood were left chasing shadows as the ball found its way to Adam Page in the centre of the D, his ball into the box collected at pace by hot shot John Mills who calmly slotted the ball past the advancing Evans.

On 42 minutes Wood cleverly worked an opening,

Football

Drew Aiton on the end of a left wing move, his first time rising drive into the top corner clawed away at full stretch by Harvey Rivers to keep the leaders ahead.

Right on the break Joel Edwards charged down the left, crossed to the far post, the fast back pedalling Evans couldn't hold the high ball, Page volleying home to make it 2-0.

On 51 minutes Mills was released into the left of the box, his close control was mesmerising as he waltzed through 3 challenges only to fire wide.

Bouncing

A minute later he beat Evans and Luke Wright to a high bouncing ball but screwed his snap shot narrowly wide.

The game was over as a contest when on 58 minutes substitute Maximilian Kontic-Coveney won the ball on halfway, raced clear wide right before going on a diagonal run, his crossfield ball picked out Haysham on the left of the box, he calmly rode a desperate challenge before playing the ball back

into to buddy Mills who twisted and turned in the centre of the box before firing a low drive into the bottom left hand corner.

It got worse four minutes later, another incisive one touch move on the edge of the box ending with Birch laying the ball back to Dylan Bonella to hit a first time effort just inside the left hand post.

Five minutes later the Wood defenders managed to get in a challenge on Mills on the left edge of the D, but a foul was given.

Ryan Greens low drive going through the Wood wall but Evans saved comfortably.

The mercurial Mills almost completed his hat-trick and took his season's tally to 19 in 12 games when on 75 minutes he raced onto a ball into the right of the box, again he twisted and turned, cleverly played the ball left to partner in crime Haysham, took the quick-fire return but his goal-bound effort was deflected wide by a lunging Josh O'Garro.

He was only denied until the 81st minutes however, as Birch powered through the centre, laid the ball off right to Mills who from 20 yards scored.

Evans got fingertips to Birch's thunderous low drive, the ball bouncing off the post, hitting the keeper on the back before rolling in for goal No. 6.

Sport

Wood come close to causing upset
Page 51

Dean's double dose of celebration
Page 51



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Khalsa stick the boot into Wellington

Sporting Khalsa 4 Wellington 0

A first half hat-trick from Craig Bannister secured Khalsa's passage into the next round of the FA Vase.

Lashing home from close range after four minutes to open the scoring, Bannister then grabbed his second on 18 minutes after a Lee Wherton long ball gave him the time and space to dash forward and finish in style past keeper Chris Manchi.

Then with just seconds of the first half to go a rampaging run by Simeon Townsend led to a cross which Bannister tucked away in style at the far post.

Aside from the goals – which now take Bannister's tally to 19 for the season – it had been largely one-way traffic.

One two separate occasions it required great last ditch challenges by Wellington's Ben Thomas to deny Bannister easy finishes, while Marvin Nisbett had efforts cleared off the line and off the woodwork.

The second half was a predictably pedestrian affair, with substitute Ben Hadley having the best of the chances as he twice burst through and forced the keeper into action from long-range shots.

On 64 minutes, a brilliant run down the left by Michael Nelson ended with a cross to fellow substitute Simeon Townsend he made a snap shot which frustratingly flew just narrowly high and wide.

Dave Meese finally broke the second half deadlock on 84 minutes volleying home his fifth of the season from a Tim Jackson corner.

Khalsa also face the biggest game in the club's history at home to Spalding in the FA Cup on Saturday, kick off 3pm.

There's more to come from winger Morris, says boss

WALSALL boss Dean Smith believes there is even more to come from young winger Kieron Morris after his bright cameo at Wigan Athletic.

The 21-year-old was handed only his second league start of the season and was involved in most of what the Saddlers were able to create in their impressive north-west outing.

His only other league start previously came in August's win at Rochdale.

The Banks's chief said: "It was tough, they played three at the back and he was our out ball for the majority of the first-half."

Smith noted that, because of the high standards that the former Wrexham loanee sets himself that he was surprised not to see the net bulge.

He said: "We only spotted him a few times but he's a lad that wants to go and score goals but he'll be a bit disappointed with that."

"There was one in the first half where he has worked the keeper and in training they usually go in."

"He's doing well and he's improving each week," added Smith.

Lockmen unpicked despite early lead



Kieran Robinson against Bridgnorth's Jason Pake

AFC Bridgnorth 5 Willenhall 2

THE Lockmen slumped to a comprehensive defeat to their fellow West Mids Premier club despite being first to score in this FA Vase tie.

The Reds struck in the seventh minute. A bad fumble by home keeper Chris Crook gave Willenhall a corner and from Alex Carlin's flag-kick skipper Paul Holden poked home his fifth goal of the season.

The lead lasted just two minutes as Bridgnorth found Ryan Bradshaw to set up Jason Pike and he fired home despite keeper Tim Patterson getting a hand to the shot. The home side went ahead when

Football

a shot from distance by Glynn Coney dipped in front of Patterson and appeared to bounce over his hand on 29 minutes.

Simon Gregory's long-range effort took two deflections to make it 3-1 on 59 minutes. Eight minutes later a cross to the far post saw Bradshaw float a header into the top corner.

Pike netted from the spot after Liam Bood was fouled before Willenhall substitute Matt Dorgan bundled in a late consolation. Gregory was dismissed deep into injury time.

POINTS SHARE FOR SADDLERS

Wigan 0 Saddlers 0

THE Saddlers' third league clean sheet in four earned them a well-deserved point in Greater Manchester – and on another day we could have been talking about a memorable Walsall victory on the road.

But, such is the way of football, it could have so easily been a trip back down the M6 empty-handed, with an old favourite handing his old boss Dean Smith a gift in the form of missed chances.

In truth, it took Walsall a while to rally. They were decisively poor in the first half.

After a bright five minutes, the tempo slowed right down and Wigan, buoyed by an expectant 8,000-strong crowd, very much asserted themselves on the game and dictated the tempo, without creating anything clear-cut.

Openings

Ironically, the Latics had all of their clear openings during a second period where the 748 travelling away fans were treated to a glimpse of the Walsall they've been accustomed to cheering on this season.

The Saddlers were much quicker on the ball in the second half. They looked to utilise Kieron Morris, Milan Lalkovic, Anthony Forde and Jordan Cook, while the pathway to Tom Bradshaw up top created much more danger in and around the Athletic area.

So why a tinge of 'what could have been' against a side that only three seasons ago were playing European football?

One of those sharp, direct forward balls freed Morris midway through the second half and he was cynically tripped by hosts' skipper Craig Morgan.

Boss Smith said he was pleased with how the Saddlers reacted to going up against 10 men. On occasions it isn't the simplest path to victory – as was proved against Peterborough last month – and Wigan were content with seeing a point out.

You could have offered a draw to most of a



Milan Lalkovic is tracked by Leon Barnett during the goalless away clash at Wigan

Walsall persuasion before the action started and they'd have taken your offer. But with the opposition penned in with a quarter of the game to go, it is a tough one to balance.

Perhaps the outstanding Paul Downing was correct in his post-match analysis: "We'll look back on this later in the season and it'll be a good point."

After all, Wigan remain unbeaten at the DW Stadium and you can't see many League One sides going there and coming away victorious.

For Smith's Saddlers, the unbeaten away form continues, with just two on the road conceded all season.

The clash was billed in some quarters as one that saw a host of familiar faces look to shoot Walsall down from the top of the League One tree, it was a case of mixed fortunes for those former Banks's heroes.

For one, reigning player-of-the-season Richard O'Donnell, the bench had to do.

Another, Jordy Hiwula, only saw 45 minutes of action and was largely anonymous.

The third, Will Grigg, Wigan's £1million man was definitely having nightmares on Saturday night. He could have, and should have, stolen the three points in the second half, somehow fluffing his lines when an open goal beckoned.

Good match but no score for the Pics

Rushall Olympic 0 Skelmersdale 0
NO goals, but an entertaining match in which both sides had to settle for an Evo-Stik Northern Premier point.

Despite the shortage of goals this was an entertaining game in which both had good chances to have snatched a winner.

It turned out to be the proverbial game of two halves with the home side dominating the first period but the visitors hitting back strongly in the second half to take control.

The home side had a first-minute scare when Jack Duggan's back-header was fumbled by Dean Coleman, but the keeper grabbed the ball at the second attempt as visiting striker Isaac Kusaloka moved in.

There was another good opportunity for the visitors when Kusaloka ran onto a through ball from Robert McIntosh, but the chance went after he delayed his shot.

From then on the home side hit back; Danny Wilkinson headed wide and Malachi Farquharson forced a good save from Martin Fearon.

A minute later a superb Kris Taylor pass found Duggan whose shot from an acute angle hit a post.

The home side should have gone ahead when a flowing move saw Aris Christophorou pull the ball back into the path of Alex Reid who missed his kick completely.

The visitors looked a different proposition in the second half and Louis Corrigan's free-kick hit the bar. But the draw was a fair outcome.

Rushall Olympic: Coleman, Christophorou, Martin, Tolley (Palmer 82), Duggan, Caines, Heath (Wright 74), Wilkinson (Edmunds 65), Farquharson, Taylor, Reid

Plummer making a big impression

WALSALL boss Dean Smith has been impressed by Ellis Plummer as he continues to run the rule over the promising defender.

The left-footed centre-half, who is also comfortable at full-back, is currently training with the Saddlers as he looks to secure a loan move away from parent club Manchester City.

The 21-year-old is a former England under-17 international and won City's academy player of the year award in 2013.

And Smith revealed Plummer has made a good first impression since joining up with his squad last week.

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